

D Bold

NAGALO

PHRASE-BOOK
GRAMMAR
DICTIONARY



Fanagalo

**PHRASE-BOOK
GRAMMAR
DICTIONARY**

J. D. BOLD



J.L. van Schaik

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1 Facts about Fanagalo

In the RSA there are ten different written languages which are widely used: Afrikaans, English, Xhosa, Zulu, Venda, Tsonga (Shangaan), SePedi (North Sotho), SeSotho (South Sotho), SeTswana, and SiSwati. In Namibia the languages used in addition to Afrikaans and English are: German, Herero, Ovambo, Nama and Damara. In the neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and Zimbabwe several more languages are spoken.

Fanagalo was, for all practical purposes, a communication bridge between these numerous and diverse languages. It is regarded by many people as a *lingua franca* of Southern Africa. As such it still is used by thousands of Whites and Africans. It has, in fact, been spoken since pioneering days.

Everyday terms

The words listed in this book are confined to useful, everyday terms. No attempt has been made to distort the simple character of Fanagalo by inventing translations for scientific, political or philosophical terms. Particular care has been taken to make the spelling consistently phonetic, so that once the simple pronunciation key has been memorised any new word can be spoken with confidence.

This book is small enough to carry around in your pocket. It is designed for the use of housewives, farmers, industrialists, motorists, sportsmen, doctors and nurses – for anyone who employs or comes into contact with African men or women and finds a European language inadequate to get ideas across.

Easy to learn

Fanagalo is not an artificially-manufactured language like Esperanto. No learned professor sat down and invented it in a moment of inspiration! The fact that it is a vigorous language, must be attributed mainly to two things:

1. It is more easily and speedily learned than any other language in the world.
2. It is a widely *spoken* language, in constant use, filling a real need.

The basis of Fanagalo

Fanagalo is a very much simplified version of Zulu, Xhosa and related languages with adaptations of modern terms from English, Dutch and Afrikaans. It probably evolved in the Eastern Cape and Natal, and later Zimbabwe during contacts between European settlers and African tribes, and it developed on diamond diggings, gold mines and farms to meet the urgent need for a common language that could easily be acquired by Zulus, Xhosas, Swazis, BaSothos, BoTswanas and Matabeles, and by the White men who employed them. These Whites usually had no time (or desire) to learn even one of the African languages. (Each would

have required several years of study to master.) The new African labourers, for their part, could not always keep pace with English and Dutch (later Afrikaans).

How it has spread

The use of Fanagalo spread in due course to domestic service and other spheres. Migrant labourers continued to take a knowledge of it back to their own territories, and today it is known from the Cape to Central Africa, and is gradually penetrating territories further afield. It is of course more readily understood among the Nguni tribes and nations – the Zulus, Swazi, Xhosas of the Eastern Cape, Shangaans and Tsongas of Mozambique, the Matabele of Zimbabwe and the Angoni of Malawi.

Fanagalo is also used inter-tribally: for instance, if a Venda wanted to communicate with a Pedi and neither of them knew the other's language they might (as often happened) communicate by speaking Fanagalo (or English). Similarly English or Afrikaans-speaking South Africans visiting Mozambique without knowing a word of Portuguese have been able to make themselves understood to Portuguese inhabitants through the *lingua franca* of Fanagalo.

Courses in Fanagalo

Fanagalo is officially taught on gold, diamond, iron and coal mines to labourers who have been recruited from various territories. When they returned to their homes they naturally took back with them their knowledge of this so-called *lingua franca*.

Induction training for African workers through the medium of Fanagalo was introduced by the South African Iron and Steel Corporation (ISCOR), who also arranged for Fanagalo to be taught to their African instructors and a number of White personnel.

The Adult Education Bureau of the Pretoria Technical College conducted Fanagalo classes for the benefit of doctors, nurses, medical students, industrialist, hunters, housewives and others who wanted to learn the language at evening classes.

By means of *crash courses* at language laboratories on the gold mines, White miners and other skilled personnel have been taught Fanagalo in sessions totalling only 15 hours. This learning rate is fast, even for Fanagalo, the most easily mastered language in the world. The results seem to be excellent and the standard of proficiency attained is said to be high.

Gestures

There are very few White men who could claim to understand the language of the Bushmen, which comprises a strange combination of clicks and other sounds, yet scientific expeditions to study the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert (organised mainly by the Witwatersrand University and the Chamber of Mines) have proved successful because the research workers have been able to communicate with the Bushmen with the aid of Fanagalo. On such occasions, of course, it is advisable

to supplement the spoken word with appropriate gestures: **in fact students of Fanagalo should never hesitate to make full use of gestures to reinforce the meaning they want to get across.**

The meaning of Fanagalo

The appellation "Fanagalo" probably derives from "kuluma fana galō", meaning "speak like this", or "enza fana galō" ("do it like this"). The word "Fanagalo" is pronounced and stressed like the vowel sounds in "Father 'n law" and not like "a nag can go".

2 Pronunciation

The Vowels

A as in FARM	e.g. MALI
E as in THERE	e.g. SEBENZA
I as in SARDINE	e.g. MINA
O as in BORDER	e.g. BONA
U as in JURY	e.g. MUTI

In each case the vowel printed in bold type is long and strong.

Diphthongs

AI or AY: spoken like vowel sound in English word TIE.
EY: spoken like sound in THEY.

AU: rhymes with COW.
OI; OY: as in OIL, BOY.
OU: as in SOUL.

The Consonants

The consonants in Fanagalo (with the exception of c, q and x) are all given the customary English sounds. But note that **g** is always "hard" like the **g** in girl and never "soft" like the **g** in gentle. In Fanagalo the soft **g** is replaced by **j**: thus magistrate becomes majistlet.

The Clicks

The consonants c, q and x are pronounced as "clicks".

The **c click** is made by pressing the tip of the tongue against the back of the upper front teeth and withdrawing it with a quick sucking-in of air. It is actually a familiar sound in English, customarily expressing disappointment or sympathy, and usually spelt "tsk, tsk".

The **q click** is produced by pressing the tongue against the palate and drawing it away with a smack.

The **x click** is made by pressing the tongue against the teeth, which are slightly apart, and then withdrawing it on one side only, with a sucking-in of air. This is the sound that White children make when they imagine they are urging a horse to get moving.

If you find you can't manage the clicks, even after coaching, you can at a pinch use the letter k instead.

Guttural g

Occasionally the Fanagalo rendering of Afrikaans words takes over the guttural “g”. This guttural sound is represented by “gh”, e.g. *sagha* (carpenter’s saw). The gh sound is similar to the Scottish ch in *loch*.

HL has the sound of the Welsh **LL** in **LLANDUDNO**. It can also be pronounced as if spelt **shl**. Thus *muhle* may be spoken *mushle*, which is near enough to the correct sound for all practical purposes.

M or **N** at the beginning of a word, if followed by a consonant, are accorded full value as a syllable. In the original Nguni they were spelt **UM**, **IM** or **IN**, and should be given just as much stress. The Fanagalo word **Mlungu** is a contraction of **umlungu**, and **nkosi** was once **inkosi**.

K and **G**. In Zulu there is not always a clear distinction between K and G. Sometimes a K – as in “KA” – is spoken so softly as to sound like G; in such cases we simply use a G in Fanagalo for the sake of phonetic accuracy and consistency and write “**FANAGALO**” in preference to “**FANAKALO**”. Otherwise K has the ordinary English sound.

Note: The spelling **FANAKALO** is used by the Chamber of Mines and **ISCOR** in their handbooks.

R is a regular letter in the Fanagalo alphabet. In some regions – particularly in Natal – it is often replaced by the sound L. Unlike the Zulus, who find it difficult to trill a good R, most other African tribes – notably the Basuto, Bechuana and Mashona – take the letter in their stride.

Y has the familiar English pronunciation, but its value is more variable. Thus we find many words in Fanagalo are spelt with or without a Y, e.g. *Yena*, *Ena*; *Yazi*, *Azi*; *Yinto*, *Into*; *Yilwa*, *Ilwa*.

Stress

In Fanagalo the stress, or accentuation, usually falls on the penultimate syllable of the word. Here is an example, with the accentuated syllables in **bold type**: **Washa masandla gawena** (wash your hands). By the same token the final syllable in Fanagalo words, particularly those which have an Nguni origin, is usually weak and unaccentuated.

3 Grammar

(a) Personal Pronouns

	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
I, me	mina	We, us
You	wena	tina
he, she, it	yena	you
		wenazonke; nina
		they, them... yenazonke.

“Him” and “her” are also “yena”; personal pronouns in Fanagalo remain the same, whether they are subjects of objects.

When “it” has the meaning of “a thing” the Fanagalo rendering is “*lo into*”, “*lo-nto*” or *yenayinto*.

When "they" refers specifically to *two* things, the word "yenababili" could be used in preference to "yenazonke". Similarly "both of you" is "wenababili".

(b) Possessive Pronouns are formed by prefixing "ga", meaning "of", to the personal pronoun. Thus:

My, mine gamina

and so on for the other personal pronouns.

If you *must* specify "he" or "she" as distinct from "him" or "it" for purposes of contrast or identification, use the following constructions:

Her or she Yenakazi

Him or he Yenadoda

(c) Verbs

Present Tense: Present tense verbs end in "-a". Examples: hamba (go); puza (drink); kwela (climb); vala (close).

Future Tense: place "zo" before the verb to indicate futurity. Examples: Mina Zo hamba (I will go); tina zo puza (we will drink); yenazonke zo kwela (they will climb); wena zo vala lo festele (you will close the window).

Past Tense: In the past tense the -a ending of the verb is replaced by -ile. Examples: Mina hambile (I went); tina puzile (we drank); yenazonke kwelile (they climbed); wena valile lo festele (you closed the window).

Present Passive: Change the -a ending of the verb to -wa. Examples: Lo-mnyango ena vulwa (the door is being opened); Lo festele ena valwa (the window is being closed).

Past Passive: Change the -a ending of the verb to -iwe. Examples: Lo-mnyango ena vuliwe (the door has been opened); Lo festele ena valiwe (the window has been closed).

To cause an action: When it is necessary to indicate that a verb should convey the sense of projecting an action, or causing an action, the "-a" ending is changed to "-isa". Examples: Hambisa zinkomo (Drive – literally "cause to go" – the cattle); Ngenisa zingulube (bring in the pigs – literally "cause to enter"). Often this -isa construction becomes more familiar than the original form of the verb, as in "lungisa" (mend), derived from "lunga", to do right. From "pakama" (rise) we get "pakamisa" (lift).

From "pefumula" (breathe) we get "pefumulisa" (resuscitate, apply artificial respiration – literally, "cause to breathe".)

This "-isa" construction can be used in the future tense as well as the present. For the past tense, alter "-isa" to "-isele". Hambisa (present tense) – Drive; Zo hambisa (future) – Shall drive; Hambisele (past) – Drove.

Examples: Mina lungisa lo moto – I mend the motor; Mina zo lungisa lo lori – I shall mend the lorry. Yena lungisele lo watch – He mended the clock; Yena shiyile lo motokali mina *tengisele* ku yena – He abandoned the car I *sold* him.

Other Verb Forms

Here, summarised, are the basic tenses and some further constructions which may be employed to good effect:

I go	Mina hamba
I went	Mina hambile
I shall go	Mina zo hamba
I shall have gone	Mina zo hambile
I can go	Mina yazi hamba
I could have gone	Mina yazi hambile
You may go (permissive)	Lungile wena hamba
I may go	
I might go	
Perhaps I shall go	
We are going now	Mhlaumbe mina zo hamba
I want to go	Tina hamba manje
I would like to go	Mina funa hamba
You should go	Mina zo tanda hamba
I am just about to go	Muhle wena hamba
I shall go later on	Mina zo hamba konamanje
I shall go later on	Min zo hamba mbaimbai
He has only just gone	Yena hambile konamanje

The *Historic, or Narrative Present* (using the present tense for describing lengthy happenings from the past), may with advantage be used when relating stories in Fanagalo, just as it is used (frequently) in Afrikaans and (less frequently) in English.

(d) Plurals

When a plural is required, the general rule is to prefix “ma–” to the Fanagalo word. E.g. foshol – shovel; mafoshol – shovels.

Note: Where the noun begins with m or n, followed by another consonant, there is sometimes a slight inflection in the forming of the plural, e.g. mbede (plural – mabede); mbele (plural – mabele); ndoda (plural – madoda); ngolovan (plural – magolovan). These forms are easier to say than the uninflected forms would be – ma-mbede, ma-mbele, ma-ndoda and so on.

However, the great majority of nouns starting with m or n merely prefix ma in the plural, e.g. ngwenya (ma-ngwenya).

Nouns beginning with “i” or “n” sometimes take “z” for the plural. E.g. ingalo – arm; zingalo – arms; nkomo – cow; zinkomo – cows. The names of some animals and insects fall into the “z” category of plurals.

There are a few irregular plurals, such as Mlungu, Abelungu (White people); iliso, mehlo (eyes); mfazi, bafazi (women). Note that names of peoples and tribes frequently fall into the “ba –” class of plurals.

(e) Interrogatives

A statement can be turned into a question by raising the tone of the voice, as is done in English. Thus you can make a statement to the effect that "Lo ingwe ena lumile lo mamekazi gamina" or you can ask "Lo ingwe ena lumile lo mamekazi gamina?" ("The leopard has bitten my maternal aunt?"). In addition a number of interrogatives, taken over in their original form from the Zulu, end in "i": Mangaki? (how many?); Utini? (what do you say?); Malini? (how much money?); Ipi? Upi? (where?); Bani? (who?); Gangani? (how?); Yiniskati? Ipiskati? (when?).

(f) Other Grammatical Usages

GA

The possessive "of" is translated by "ga". E.g. the horns *of* the ox – Zipondo *ga* lo-nkabi. "Ga" or "nga" can also indicate "by means of", expressing the employment of an instrument, and the manner of doing something. E.g. hamba *ga* motokali – Go *by* car. Hamba *ga* nyawo – Go *on* foot. Lo basi ena hamba *nga* lo petrol – The bus runs *on* petrol.

KU

"Ku", used after prepositions, denotes position or placing. Examples: Yena kona mabili zinyoni pezulu ku lo-ndlu – There are two birds *on* the roof of the house.

Hayikona yima muva ku lo hashi – Don't stand *behind* the horse.

"Pagati ku" – *into*. "Duze ku" – *near*. "Pambilu ku" – *in front of*.

UPI

When not followed by a question mark, *upi* signifies *where*.

Examples:

This is the place where the money was lost. – Yena lo ndawo upi lo mali yena lahlegile.

I work in the office out of which the man came. – Mina sebenza lapa lo hofisi *upi* lo muntu yena pumile (*where* the man came out).

That – Ukuba

Ukuba – that; so that; because; in order that.

I want you to go – Mina funa ukuba wena hamba (I want **that** you go).

Tie the horse so that it doesn't run away – Bopa lo hashi ukuba yena hayi baleka.

By what means? – Ngani?

By what means did you kill the snake? – Ngani wena bulalile lo nyoka?

I killed it with (by means of) a shotgun – Mina bulalile yena ngalo simbamamu.

Which? What? – Ini?

What does he want? – Ini yena funa?

Which sweets do you prefer? – Ini switi wena keta?

Perhaps – Mhlaumbe

Perhaps we will be able to fish later on. – Mhlaumbe tina azi doba mbaimbai.

Either/or – Mhlaumbe/mhlaumbe

I don't see the cow: either it is sick or has strayed. – Mina hayibona lo nkomo; mhlaumbe yena gula, mhlaumbe yena dukile.

Until – Ukude; Kuze

Stay here until the teacher returns. – Hlala lapa ukude lo tisha yena buya.

Although; or – Noko

I'll go although I'm tired. – Mina zo hamba noko mina diniwe.

The cat will eat fish or meat but not eggs. – Lo katsi azi idla lo ntlanzi noko lo nyama, kodwa hayikona ekis.

If; If and When – Noko

If the baby cries, comfort it. – Noko lo bebi yena kala, duduza yena.

When – Loskati

Get up when the sun rises. – Vuka loskati lo langa yena puma.

So that; because – Kona

Siza lo muntu kona yena pakamisa lo litye. – Help the man so that he may lift the stone.

Mina hamba lala manje kona mina gula. – I'm now going to lie down because I'm sick.

Because – Ndaba

The driver is cheerful because I found the spare part he had lost. – Lo draiva yena tokozile manje ndaba mina tolile lo sipere yena lahlegile.

And, with – Na

Give me the spanner and the crowbar. – Niga mina lo spanela na lo jimkrou.

The man went off with the woman and the girl as well. – Lo ndoda yena hambile na lo fazi na lo ntombi futi.

Who, which – Yena

Gives me the wireles set that has conked out – Niga mina lo wayiles yena file.

Where is the child who wants food – Upi lo pikanin yena funa skafu?

4 Numerals, Weekdays, Months

NUMERALS

	<i>Fanagalo</i>	<i>Nguni</i>
1	wan	munye
2	tu	mabili
3	tri	matatu
4	fo	sine, or mane
5	fayif	hlanu
6	sikis	situpa
7	seven	sikombisa
8	eyit	eyit
9	nayin	nayin
10	ten	shumi
11	leven	shumi na munye
12	twelof	shumi na mabili
13	tetin	shumi na matutu
14	fotin	shumi na sine
15	fiftin	shumi na hlanu
20	twenti	mabili shumi
21	twenti-wan	mabili shumi na munye
30	teti	matatu shumi
40	foti	sine shumi
100	handed	kulu
105	handed-n-fayif	kulu na hlanu
200	tu hundred	mabili kulu
1,000	tausend	kulungwan
1 m.	milyoni	milyoni

The original Nguni words for "eight" and "nine" have been omitted to avoid confusion, as there are various alternatives. With the exception of "munye" and "mabili", Nguni numerals are very seldom used in Fanagalo.

ARITHMETIC

Subtract – susa. Multiply – andisa. Add – hlanganisa. Divide – ahluka. Correct (v) – lungisa. Half – haf.

DAYS OF THE WEEK

<i>English</i>	<i>Fanagalo</i>	<i>Nguni</i>
Monday	Mandeyi	(Sombuluko, Mvulo)
Tuesday	Tiusdeyi	(Lwesibili)
Wednesday	Wensdayi	(Lwesitatu)
Thursday	Tersdeyi	(Lwesine)
Friday	Fraideyi	(Lwesihlanu)
Saturday	Setedeyi	(Mngibelo)
Sunday	Sandeyi	(Sonto)

The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th days of the week, as shown in brackets, are derived from Nguni numerals. *Mvulo* is a Xhosa word derived from *vula* (to open) – hence the day that opens the working week.

MONTHS

January – Januwari	July – Julayi
February – Febuwari	August – Agosi
March – Matsh	September – Sebutemba
April – Epril	October – Okitoba
May – Meyi	November – Novemba
June – Juni	December – Disemba

5 Time and Place

TIME

To tell the time prefix the phrase “skati ka” to the English numerals.
E.g. Skati ka fo – 4 o'clock.

Morning (daybreak to noon)	kusasa; ekuseni
Midday, noon; daytime	emini, mini
Afternoon	mtambam
Evening	kusishwa, kusitwa
Twilight	uvivi
Night (sunset to sunrise)	busuku

Thus 3 p.m. is “skati ka tri mtambam” and 3:30 a.m. is “skati ka haf past tri busuku”.

This evening – kusishwa namhla. In the evening – skati kusishwa.

Tonight – ebusuku. In middle of night – pagati ka busuku.

Last night – lo busuku yena file; ezayo busuku; pezolo.

Today – namhla. Early (in the day) – kuseni.

Yesterday – izolo.

Tomorrow – ngomso; kusasa. (Note: *Kusasa* also means at dawn).

Day after tomorrow – ngomsomunye.

Week – Vek, Wik. Next week – lo wik yena figa. Last week – lo wik yena figile.

Month – Nyanga. Next month – lo nyanga yena figa. Last month – lo nyanga yena pelile. Moonrise – pumanyanga. Moonset – shonanyanga.

Minute – miniti; **Time** – skati; **Hour** – auwa, skati; **What's the time** – Yini lo skati?; **Now** – manje; **When** – loskati; **When?** – ipi skati?; **At that time** – galesoskati; **Every time** – zonkeskat(i); **Future** – skati pambili; **In Desember** – Skati ka Disemba; **Year** – nyaka.

PLACE NAMES

Africa	- Aflika, Afrika	Kimberley	- Ndayimani
Bloemfontien	- Mangaung	Maputo	- Maputo, Lolensomaki
Cape Town	- Khepi	Port Elizabeth	- Ibayi
Drakensberg	- Ukahlamba	Pietermaristaburg	- Umgungundlovu
Durban	- Tekweni	Pietersburg	- Polokwane
East London	- Istimondon	South Africa	- Sauwt Afrika
Johannesburg	- Goli, Igoli, Joni, Jozi		

6 Peoples and Countries

PEOPLES

Afrikaner	- Bunu	German	- Jalimane
Arab	- Sulumane	Greek	- Geliki
Basuto	- Msutu	Hottentot	- Lau
Bechuana	- Mtswana	Indian	- Indiya
Bushman	- Busiman, Mutwa	Italian	- Ntaliyane
Cape Coloured	- Kalidi	Jew	- Juda
Chinese	- Shayina	Pondo	- Mpondو
Englishman	- Ngisi	Portuguese	- Potugezi
Frenchman	- Fulentshi	Xhosa	- Xosa

Note: To form plurals, prefix "Ma"; e.g. Mageliki, Malau. Exceptions: Besutu, Betswana, Amaswazi, Amaxhosa, Amazulu.

COUNTRIES

Countries may be designated by prefixing "Kwa" or "Kw" to plural form, e.g. Kwamangisi (England), Kwamaindiya (India), Kwabetswana (Botswana), Kwabesutu (Lesotho), Kwamaswazi (Swaziland). Alternatively the official name may be used, especially if the country is in Africa, e.g. Malawi, Botswana.

For the benefit of readers not familiar with all the political changes in areas of South-Central Africa where Fanagalo might be used, here are some names that have been changed: Northern Rhodesia - now Zambia. Southern Rhodesia (later Rhodesia) - Zimbabwe. Bechuanaland - Botswana. Basutoland - Lesotho. Belgian Congo - Zaire. Nyasaland - Malawi. Tanganyika - Tanzania.

LANGUAGES

Sotho - Sutu, Swazi - Siswati, Swati, Afrikaans - Sibunu, English - Singisi.

7 African Customs

Gifts: When you give something to a muntu and he takes it with both hands that is a sign of politeness, not of greed. Some women have a pretty habit of clapping their hands lightly before taking a gift. This, too, is a sign of politeness and respect.

Don't be in a *hurry* to "Bawl out" a muntu who remains seated when you address him. Take it clamly. In tribal life it is disrespectful for a man to *stand* when conferring with his chief. Thus it is not surprising if occasionally a man steeped in tribal traditions fails to get the hang of European etiquette.

When a muntu passes in front of you instead of passing behind you he is following an old custom.

A pamphlet, "Your Bantu Servant and You", issued by the Johannesburg Municipality, gives some hints on Bantu customs and ways of thought. For instance, the employer should be the first to greet the employee (it is good manners among the Bantu for a servant to remain silent until spoken to).

Give instructions clearly, concisely and positively. Give orders one at a time and make sure the employee understands what is required. He may think it polite to say "Yes" when he had not understood what you said.

White women should be modest in their dress when in view of male Bantu servants and should not expect them to wash or iron feminine underclothes. Children should be trained never to speak discourteously to servants.

In Bantu tribal society the structure of a family is somewhat different from that in White societies. For instance the grandmother occupies an important and respected position in a Bantu household. As uncles have almost the status of fathers, a man's cousins will rank as "brothers" and "sisters". So don't be startled if a servant who has asked for leave to attend the funeral of his "father" repeats the request a year or so later!

8 "Muntu" and "Bantu"

The designation of Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi and other tribesmen is "Bantu", which is the plural form of "Muntu". The word Muntu is derived from *Ntu*, meaning a person. Although the word Bantu is plural, it was often used in English or Afrikaans in the singular sense, e.g. "I saw a Bantu walking past", instead of "I saw a Muntu walking past." This term should be avoided when referring to Xhosas, Zulus, etc.

The use of the word "Native" to describe Bantu people is seldom heard today. When Whites first settled in South Africa over 300 years ago the only "natives" of the country they encountered were wandering Hottentots and Bushmen, who are different from Bantu. The appellation "blacks" is preferred today.

Abantsundu (literally "Brown People") is in Fanagalo a precise appellation for Bantu peoples. This term is usually shortened to "Bantu".

Whites in South Africa used to be called "Europeans", but this term has fallen into disuse. The Fanagalo name for Whites is Abelungu, plural of Mlungu.

9 Avoid negative questions

When you ask an African a question in English you should avoid, if possible, the phrase "Didn't". People who habitually speak English, when asked "Didn't you make coffee?" would reply "No, I didn't" or "Yes, I did". The African reaction, however, is to reply "Yes, I didn't" or "No, I did". Sometimes he might just answer "Yes" or "No", and if you don't listen to the rest of his explanation you might easily misunderstand his meaning. Rather put your questions directly: "Did you make the fire?" and give him the chance of answering an unambiguous "Yes" or "No". The same principle applies when you talk Fanagalo. Don't say: "Wena hayikona enzile lo-mlilo, na?" (Didn't you make the fire?); rather put it: "Wena enzile lo-mlilo, na?" (Did you make the fire?). And, generally speaking, it does not help you in your relations with African workers to fire long strings of rhetorical questions at them – as many people are apt to do when things have gone wrong. It is much better just to say outright that you don't like a thing done that way, and in future it should be done this way. The use of sarcasm should also be avoided. It misfires.

10 Letters and Telegrams

Letter-writing in Fanagalo presents no special problems. Abbreviations are rendered as follows:

Mr. – Mna. (derived from **Morena** and **Umnumzana**).

Mrs. – Mi. (from **Umfazi**, **Mosadi** and **Mohumahadi**, which are the same form of address in different Bantu tongues).

The title "Sir" can also be rendered by "Mna."

You can start a letter with "Dumela!" (Greetings!) and possibly end with "Sala Gahle!"

Did you know that you may send telegrams in Fanagalo? They will be accepted and transmitted by the General Post Office in the Republic. The Author once, as a test, sent the following telegram which was accepted and duly delivered:

DUMELA LO POS HOFISI YENA TSHELA MINA LUNGILE ENZA
LO FANAGALO LOSKATI WENA BALA LO TELEGRAM.

(GREETINGS! THE POST OFFICE INFORMS ME THAT THE
TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS WRITTEN IN FANAGALO IS
PERMITTED).

METRICATION**Length**

Metre – MITR (m)	centimetre – SENTIMITR (cm)
millimetre – MILIMITR (mm)	kilometre – KILOMITR (km)

Velocity

kilometres per hour – KILOMITRS PER AUWA (km/h)

Volume

litre – LITR (ℓ)	cubic metre – KIUBIK MITR (m^3)
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Mass

gram – GREM (g)	kilogram – KILOGREM (kg)
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11 Verses, prayers

Verse composition

Here's how to compose verse in Fanagalo. You start off with something in English, preferably in iambic metre, with one or two Fanagalo words introduced to make the transition easy:

It's advisable to hamba
 When you stumble on a mamba
 For if you do not tshetsha
 You'll expire on a stretcher.

This almost automatically becomes:
 Muhle wena kona hamba
 Skati wena bona mamba
 Noko wena hayi tshetsha
 Wena ifa lapa stretsha.

TSHWALA, MUHLE TSHWALA.

Tshwala, muhle tshwala
 Puza futi, stelek muti
 Puza baba, hayi saba
 Tshwala, muhle tshwala.

(Although this verse was inspired by the old soldiers' song, "Beer, Glorious Beer", it should be mentioned that Bantu beer is quite different from European beer. Home-brewed Bantu beer, a traditional drink, has always played an important part in the religious and social life of the Bantu. Furthermore it has food value and contains vitamins. In the larger cities it is today factory-made and supplied at municipal beerhalls or in cartons sold through bottle stores. The mines brew their own Bantu beer as part of the rations for their Bantu labourers.)

SHAKESPEARE

Let's take a look next at a famous verse from Shakespeare . . .

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,
 Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,
 To the last syllable of recorded time;
 And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
 The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
 Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
 And then is heard no more.

. . . and its rendering in Fanagalo:

Kusasa, na kusasa, na kusasa,
 Zintsuku zonke hambake gantsani,
 Galesoskati, skati zo pelile;
 Mazolo kanyisile masituta
 Lapa ndlela file. Cima, kandlela!
 Tina fana na mtunzi yena
 Hamba; mbongo yena kala munye
 Ntsuku, mbaimbai tulisa.

LO GAMU TWENTI-TRI

(The 23rd Psalm)

Umalusi gamina! Nkulunkulu!
 Mina zo hayi funa luto,
 Wena lalisa mina lapa lo tshani luhlaza,
 Wena bonisa mina lo puzamanzi,
 Wena pilisa lo moyo gamina.

* * *

Wena hamba pambili lapa lo-ndlela lungile,
 Yebo, kodwa mina hamba lapa lo-mtunzi minyama
 Mina hayi saba lo bubi;
 Lo-nduku gawena siza mina.

* * *

Wena deka lo taful; wena kudlisa mina
 Loskati abazondi yena buka.
 Lo komitshi gamina yena gwele.
 Mpela, lo kulungile na lo tando
 Hamba na mina zonke ntsuku;
 Futi, mina zo hlala zonkeskat
 Pagati ku lo-ndlu ga lo-Nkulunkulu.

TANDAZO
(The Lord's Prayer)

Baba gatina, Wena kona pezulu,
 Tina bonga lo Gama gawena;
 Tina vuma lo mteto gawena
 Lapa mhlaba, fana na pezulu.
 Niga tina namuhla lo zinkwa yena izwasisa;
 Futi, yekelela masono gatina,
 Loskati tina yekelela masono ga lomunye.
 Hayi letisa tina lapa lo cala;
 Kodwa, sindisa tina ku lo bubi,
 Ndaba Wena kona lo-mteto, lo mandla, na lo dumela,
 Zonkeskat. Amen.

12 Greetings, weather, seasons

Greetings

Good day! – Sakubona! Sawubona!

How goes it? – Kanjani?

All right – Kulungile.

Goodbye! (Go well!) – Hamba gahle!

Goodbye! (Stay well!) – Sala gahle!

Goodbye everybody! – Salani gahle!

How's your wife? – Kanjani lo-mfazi gawena?

She's well now – Yena pilile manje.

When did you arrive? – Ipiskati wena figile?

At 7.30 this morning – Skati ka haf pas seven ekuseni.

Don't speak so quickly. I don't understand you very well – Hayikona kuluma tsetsha. Mina hayi qonda muhle.

Sorry, I'll speak slowly now – Sori, manje mina zo kaluma gahle.

Is it cold in Johannesburg? – Yena kona makaza lapa Jozi, na?

Yes, freezing – Yebo, makaza stelek!

I think there will be rain today – Mina kabanga lo mvula yena zo figa namuhla.

Oh yes, the wind is blowing strongly and I see plenty of clouds – Ehe, lo moyo yena pepeta stelek. Mina bona maningi mafu.

I'm afraid of lightning and thunder – Mina saba lo mbane la lo duma.

Weather

From the cloud (ifu) or clouds (mafu) may come shade (mtunzi), lightning (mbane), thunder (duma), rain (mvula) or hailstones (matshe ga lo zulu). From the wet (manzi) earth (mhlaba) the rainwater (mvulamanzi) will evaporate, forming mist (nkungu). If the wind (moya) is sufficiently cold (makaza) it may snow (kitika), but eventually the sun (langa) will bring the rainbow (tingo ga nkosikas) and at night the moon (nyanga)

and stars (makanyezi) will shine (kanyisa). Eventually it will become hot (tshisa) and dry (omile).

Two important nouns connected with the weather are *zulu*, which can mean heaven, sky or weather, and *moya*, which represents wind or air. Reverting to the fanciful name for a rainbow, "Tingo ga nkosikas" it is not clear whether this means a lady's bower (rainbow shaped), or a lady's pitcher (from which the water has been emptied in the form of rain). Either way it is a pretty thought.

THE SEASONS

Spring	- Ntlokolaza, Ntwasahlobo.
Summer	- Hloba
Autumn	- Kwindla
Winter	- Busika

COMPASS POINTS

North	- Nyakato; Node
South	- Ningizimu; Sauwt
East	- Pumalanga
West	- Shonalanga

Note: The ensuing sections on the Human Body, Medical Phrases, Health and Hygience, First Aid, and Accidents and Casualties are of particular interest to Doctors, Nurses, Social Workers, Medical Auxiliaries (such as Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists) and employers of labour.

13 The human body

This section may be read in conjunction with the chapters "Medical" and "Health and Hygiene".

Some of the more familiar parts of the body are:

ankle - qakala
anus - golo
arm - ingalo
armpit - kwapa
artery - mtambo (ga lo bomvu gazi)
back - mhlane
buttocks - singqe
calf - sito
cheek - sihlati
chest - sifubu
chin - silevu
collarbone - nqosha, nbu inqwababa
colon - nyonkolo
ear - ndlebe
elbow - ndolowane; noneba
eye - iliso, ihlo
eyes - mehlo

backbone - mhlandla
bile, gall - nyongo
body - mzimba
bone - tambo
bowel, intestine - tumbu (pl. matumbu)
brain - bukopa
breasts - mabele
leg - mlenze
lung - mpungu; papu
marrow - mkantsha
moustache - devu
mouth - mlomo
muscle - msipa
nail - zipo
neck - ntamo
nerve - muzwa
nipple - ngono
nose - mpumlo

face – buso	pelvis – mhlese
finger – munwe	penis – mtondo
small finger – pikanin munwe	pulse – gazi shaya lapa lo mtambo
fist – bakela	rib – ubambo
foot – nyawo	shoulder – hlombe
forehead – pongo, bunzi	shoulder blade – panga
gland – ndlala	skin – skumba
groin – mbilapa	stomach, abdomen – sisu
gullet – minzo	teat (breast) – mbele
gums – masini	testicles – masende
hair – nwele	thigh – tanga
hand – sandla	throat – mpimbo
head – skop, kanda, ntloko	thumb – situpa
heart – intliziyo, hliziyo	toe – zwane
heel – sitende	toenail – zipo
hip – nyonga	tongue – limi
hip bone – nqulu	tooth – zinyo
jaw – mhlati	vein – mtambo ga lo bluwan gazi
kidney – inso	wrist – sihlakala
knee – dolo	
lip – debe	
liver – sibindi	

14 Medical

I am ill, master – Mina gula, nkos (or Mina yifa).

Here, drink this medicine – Ina, puza lo muti.

My chest is sore – Lo sifuba gamina yena buhlungu.

The dog eats the grass because it is ill – Lo injá yena idla lo tshani ndaba yena gula.

The old person is complaining all the time – Lo madala yena kala zonkeskat.

I shall relieve the pain – Mina zo tulisa lo buhlungu.

Your knee is fractured – Lo dolo gawena yena pugile.

Why did you not drink the medicine I gave you? – Yinindaba wena hayi-kona puzzile lo muti mina nigile wena?

Heavens! I thought you told me to rub it on my leg – Hau! Mina kabanga wena tshelile mina, sinda yena lapa lo-mlenze.

I sweat a lot every night and my head is hot – Mina juluka stelek zonke busuku loskati lo-ntloko gamina ena tshisa.

I can see perspiration on your face now – Mina bona lo mjuluko lapa lo buso gawena manje.

When you wake in the morning is there a bitter taste in your mouth? – Loskati wena vuka ekuseni lo-mlomo gawena yena babayo, na?

When you get another fever attack tell me and I will give you daraprim – Noko lo-ntloko gawena ena tshisa munyeskat, tshela mina; mina zo niga wena lo dereprim muti.

When did the affliction first give trouble? – Ipiskati lo buhlungu yena hlupekile kuqala?

The medicine will kill your intestinal worms – Lo muti zo bulala izilo (wena bonile loskati wena boshile).

I can't go to the latrine regularly; give me some Epsom salts – Mina hayiyazi bisha zonkeskat; niga mina lo sawuti.

We have an x-ray machine which can see into your body and take a photograph of the abscess – Tina kona lo mtshini, lo eksreyiz, yena bona muhle pagati ku lo-mzimba gawena. Yena enza mfanekiso ga lo tumba.

You won't feel the operation. A doctor will give you anaesthetic, and another doctor will remove the septic part. Finally the doctor will suture the place neatly, and bandage your body. When you are better you will be glad – Wena zo hayikona izwa lo hlinza. Lo dokotela zo faga lo moyo yena lalisa. Lomunye dokotela zo kipa lo tumba. Kuqedile lo dokotela zo tunga muhle lo-ndawo. Yena zo bopa lo-mzimba gawena ga lo bendej. Loskati wena betela wena zo jabula.

* * *

How are you today? – Kanjani namuhla?

Where is the pain? – Ipi buhlungu?

Don't be afraid; I won't hurt you – Hayikona saba; mina hayiyazi limaza wena.

Come closer: I want to examine your eyes – Sondela; mina funa bona mehlo gawena.

Shut your eyes now – Cima mehlo manje.

I cannot sleep properly because I cough every night – Mina hayiyazi lala muhle ndaba mina kohlela zonke busuku.

The doctor is angry because you went away – Lo dokotela ena kwata ndaba wena hambile.

You are shivering. Are you cold? – Wena tutumela. Wena kona makaza, na?

I am very sick – Mina gula kakulu.

My wife needs medicine – Lo-mfazi gamina ena funa muti.

Take this medicine in the evening regularly when you go to bed – Puza lo muti zonkeskat loskati wena hamba lala ebusuku.

If you come back when the bottle is empty I will give you some new medicine – Noko wena buya loskati lo bodlela yena pelile mina zo niga wena lo nyuan muti.

* * *

SOME USEFUL PHRASES

acute pain – buhlungu stelek

anaesthetic – moyo yena lalisa

bedpan – ndishi ga lo bosh

boil, abscess – tumba

constipated – hayikona bisha

deaf – andiva

deaf person – situtu
 defecate – bosha
 dentist – dokotela ga mazinyo
 emetic – muti ga hlanza
 exhale – pumisa mpefumulo
 eye drops – muti ga mehlo
 eye surgeon – dokotela ga mehlo
 give artificial respiration – pefumulisa
 gonorrhoea – jovela (vuza ga lo mtondo)
 head cold – mkuhlane ga skop
 infect – sulela lo gufa
 infectious, contagious – ukusulela
 inhale – donsa mpefumulo
 itch – nwaya
 neuritis, neuralgia – buhlungu ga muzwa
 operate – hlinza
 phlegm – isikohlela
 prescription – ncwadi ga muti
 pulse – gazi shaya lapa lo ntambo
 sick, suffering – sik, gula
 spittle – mate
 syphilis – spatsholo (gufa ga fazi)
 urinate – tunda, shobinga
 urine – mshobingo
 veterinary surgeon – dokotela ga silwane
 well (healthy) – pila muhle

15 Health and Hygiene

Don't spit – Hayikkona pimisa. Hayikkona pumisa mate.

Go and wash your body – Hamba geza lo-mzimba gawena.

Sweep your room every day – Tshanyela lo kaya gawena zonke ntsuku.

If you eat only bread you will in time become ill. You should eat vegetables every day – Noko wena idla lo sinkwa kupela wena zo gula mbaimbai. Yidla zonke ntsuku mavejetebel.

Don't eat underdone pork – Loskati wena yidla lo-nayma ga longulube, pega yena stelek kuqala.

If you don't open your window at night the carbon monoxide from your coal brazier will kill you – Noko wena hayikona vula lo festele ebusuku loskelem smoko ga lo tshisa malahle zo bulala wena.

Milk the cows, but first wash your hands – Senga zinkomo, kodwa geza masandla gawena kuqala.

Use the insecticide in your hut in this manner; it will kill flies and mosquitoes and bugs, in fact all insects – Faga lo muti pagati ku lo kaya gawena, fana ga lo; yena zo bulala zimpukane, na zinsune, na zimbungulu (mazondo). Zonke silwanekazane ena zo yifa.

If you drink illicit brew you will get ill. – Noko wena puza lo skokian na lo qediviki wena zo gula.

Your baby's eyes are dirty: I shall put some drops in them – Mehlo ga lo bebi gawena yena doti: mina zo faga mbitshan muti.

Thank you very much, master – Nkos! Bonga kakulu.

The river water is unclean; leave it alone and drink tap water – Lo manzi lapa lo-mfula yena doti; yeka yena; puza lo manzi ga lo tep.

You must not urinate in the river. Go to the latrine every time – Hayikona wena tunda lapa lo mfula. Hamba zonkeskat lapa lo boshi.

If you get medicine from the witchdoctor you may get better or you may die. But when you take the doctor's medicine you will be glad because it relieves and cures you – Noko wena tola lo muti ga lo-nyanga mhlaumbe wena betela, mhlaumbe wena yifa. Kodwa, loskati wena tata lo muti ga lo dokotela, lo-mlungu, wena zo jabula, ndaba yena tulisa na pilisa.

Do you smoke dagga? – Wena bema lo-insangu (lo dagha), na?

No sir, I use tobacco only – Cha, bas, mina bema lo gwaiyi kupela.

Relax your body – Yeka mzimba.

16 Accidents and casualties

What goes on here? What is it? – Yinindaba? Yintoni?

There has been a big smash – Yena kona lo makulu smesh.

The motor car struck the bridge and overturned – Lo motokali ena shayile lo bologhwe; eyna wile.

One White man is dead; another has a broken arm, and a baby is bleeding from the mouth and ears – Lo-mlungu ena file; lomunye yena pugile lo-ngalo gayena; lo bebi yena puma lo gazi lapa lo-mlomo na zindlebe. Can I help you? – Mina yazi siza wena, na?

Hurry to that house nearby; tell them we want a doctor – Hamba tsetsha ku lo-ndlu lapa duze; tshela yena tina funa lo dokotela.

I think there is perhaps another white man underneath the motor car. There! See his hand – Mina kabanga mhlaumbe yena kona ndoda lomunye pantsi ku lo motokali. Nanku! Bona lo sandla gayena.

Bring together a lot of men; tell them I want to lift the car – Butela maningi bantu; tshela yena mina funa pakamisa lo motokali.

The car is very heavy; take out the baggage – Lo motokali ena nzima kakulu: kipa lo-mpahale.

Mind the petrol leaking out. Tell that man not to smoke close to the car – Basopa lo petrol ena vuza. Tshela lo muntu lapa sayid hayimuhle yena bema duze ku lo motokali.

A heavy stone fell on my foot – Lo litye nzima yena wile lapa lo nyawo gamina.

The bandage is red: the knee is bleeding continually – Lo bendej yena bomvu: lo dolo yena puma lo gazi zonkeskat.

Lie down now. Later on you will be better – Lala pantsi manje; baimbai wena zo betele.

The child was bitten by a dog – Lo injá yena lumile lo-mtwana.
Call the ambulance by telephone – Biza lo ambulans nga lo telefomo.
The ambulance has arrived – Lo ambulens yena figile.

First Aid

Do you know first aid? – Wena azi lo festeyid, na?

Oh yes, I learned it when I worked on a mine – Yebo, mina fundile yena lapa lo mayin.

Help me to lift this man onto the stretcher; he has been gassed (overcome by fumes) – Siza pakamisa lo-ndoda lapa ku lo stretsha; yena dagiwe nga lo smok.

I will apply the bandage but bring me a scissors and safety pin first – Mina azi fasa lo bendej, kodwa leta kuqala lo skele na lo spenet.
We gave him artificial respiration – Tina pefumulisele yena.

This man has been electrocuted on the roof of the house – Lo ges lapa pezulu ku lo-ndlu, yena bambile lo muntu.

Drowned – Shonile ku lo manzi. Electric shock – banjiwe ga lo ges.
First aid dressings – bendej ga lo-ngozi.

17 Sports and recreations

Fishing

Where is the dam? Are there fish in it? – Upi lo dam? Yena kona ntlanzi lapa pagati?

Yes sir. Men catch many a fish there – Yebo nkos. Madoda yena bambaba maningi ntlanzi lapa.

I want some worms now – Mina funa misundu manje.

Where is the farm house? – Upi lo ndlu ga lo plas?

Must we ask permission to fish in the river? – Loskati tina funa doba lapa lo-mfula, tina zo buza lo-mlungu, na?

You cannot go by car to the dam; there's only a footpath – Wena hayiyazi hamba ga lo motokali lapa ku lo dam. Yena kona lo-ndlela ganyawo kupela.

Football

Pay attention when the referee blows his whistle – Izwa loskati lo referi ena shaya lo-mfingwan.

Kick the ball into the goal – Kahlela lo bol pagati ku lo goal.

Now head the ball – Manje shaya lo bol nga lo skop gawena.

Stand on the line; raise the ball above your head with both hands and throw it in – Yima lapa lo layin; pakamisa lo bol pezulu ku lo skop; pon-sa yena nga mabili masandla.

Football boots – Makokis. Jersey – Jezi. Football togs – Gear. Kick kaba, kahlela.

Golf

Have you caddied before? I don't want a useless boy – Wena azi lo golof?
Mina hayifuna lo mampara mfan.

Yes, sir, I am a good caddie – Yebo nkos, mina festklas kedi.

What is your name? – Bani lo gama gawena?

Take my bag of clubs – Tata lo saka gamina.

Keep your eye on the ball; see that you don't lose it – Buka muhle lo bol gamina; basopa wena hayikona lahlega yena.

These balls are dirty; clean them with water – Tata mabol, yena doti; susa yena nga lo manzi.

You must be quiet when my partner plays a shot – Muhle wena tula loskati lo-mlungu ena beta lo bol.

Be quiet – Tula!

I don't want this iron; give me my wood – Mina hayifuna lo-ntsimbi niga mina lo-nkuni.

Is my ball lying close to the pin? – Lo bol gamina yena duze ku lo pin?
No, it was a bad shot and it's in a bunker – Cha! Yena posa; ena kona lapa lo santi (lo banka).

Take out the pin – Kipa! ("Pumisa lo pin").

Let go the pin – Yeka lo pin.

Did the ball drop into the water? – Lo bol ena iwile lapa lo manzi, na?

Did it bounce this side the river? – Yena shayile nganeno lo-mfula?

Give me my number 4 iron – Niga mina lo-ntsimbi nomba fo.

That old ball is not mine; I am playing a brand new one – Lo madala bol ena hayikona lo bol gamina; mina kona lo nyuwani mhlope stelek.

Did my ball run into the bunker? – Lo bol gamina yena hambile pansi ku lo-mgodi ga lo santi?

How many balls are there on the green? – Mangaki mabol ena kona lapa lo grin?

I can see only one – Mina bona munye kupela.

Move your shadow. Don't rattle the bag – Susa lo-mtunzi gawena. Hayikona shukumisa lo saka.

Do you smoke? Have you matches? – Wena funa gwaiyi? Wena kona metshs?

Please carry my clubs to the car. Here's an extra tip. – Muhle wena tata lo saka lapa lo motokali. Ina lo futi mali.

Fairway – tshani fushane. Rough – tshani mude.

Hunting and Game Reserves

What have you loaded onto the lorry? – Yini lo mpahle wena layishile lapa lo lori?

I have just checked the load. Lamps, torches, rifle, shotgun, canvas, food, beer, brandy and drinking water – Mina bonile lo mtwalo: malampu, matotsh, lo rayifl, lo shatgan, lo seyil, lo skaf, lo tshwala, lo brendi na lo puzamanzi.

We will stop here under the big tree where there is plenty of shade – Tina zo yima lapa lo makulu mti, yena kona maningi mtunzi.

Why don't we camp near the river? – Yinindaba tina hayi hlala duze ku lo mfula?

Because the mosquitoes will eat us alive. What's more, I'm afraid of crocodiles – Ndaba masune yena zo luma tina stelek. Futi, mina saba mangwenya.

The dog is pointing – Lo injá yena kombá.

He smells the buck – Yena nuka lo nyamazan.

Give me my gun – Miga mina lo sibamu gamina.

Have you brought the big knife? – Wena figisile lo makulu mes, na?

Yes sir, here it is – Yebo nkos, ina.

Look out for the teeth of the crocodile: they are very dirty and if you get scratched the place will become septic – Basopo mazinyo ga lo-ngwenyana: yena maningi doti; futi, noko yena limaza wena, londawo yena zo bolile.

Why are the buck fleeing and the birds twittering? – Yinindaba zonke lo nyamazan yena baleka, na zinyoni yena kala?

Perhaps it is a lion. No, I see now, the grass is on fire! – Mhlaumbe yena kona lo-ngonyama. Hayi, mina bona manje . . . lo tshani yena baswa!

Who has stolen the venison? – Ubani yena tshontshile lo nyamazan?

I don't know sir; perhaps a dog – Mina hayi azi, nkos; mhlaumbe lo injá.

The goat in the kraal has been killed by lions – Mangonyama yena bulalile lo-mbuzi lapa lo-mzí.

Pacify the horses: they are terribly afraid – Tulisa mahashi: yena saba stelek.

Run to the car and alert the men there – Gijima lapa lo motokali; vukisa zonke madoda lapa.

We are allowed to shoot these; they are vermin – Lungile tina bulala yena; yenazonke silwanyana.

The leopard has been trapped – Lo ingwe yena tiyile.

If you go to the big water hole at dawn you'll see lots of buck – Noko wena hamba skati pumalanga lapa lo makulu mgodi ena kona manzi, wena zo buka maningi nyamazan.

Is the water hole far? – Lo mgodimanzi yena kashane?

No, it is very near – Hayi, yena duze kakulu.

Where can I buy a wild cat kaross? – Upi mina azi tenga lo paka karos?

The white trader has many of them – Lo-mlungu ga lo stolo yena kona maningi.

These are useless: some are too old, some too hard, others are ugly – Yena mampara: lomunye yena madala, lo-munye lukuni, lomunye yena mubi.

I want a little kaross, but nice and soft – Mina funa lo pikanin karos, kodwa muhle, tambile.

That one is pretty. Ask the man how much he wants for it – Lo karos lapa yena muhle. Buza lo muntu malini.

Finally a few more handy terms:

baboon – mfene

buffalo – inyati

bullet – hlamvu

bushbuck – imbabala

camp – kambu

dassie – mbira

duiker – impunzi

eagle – kozi

eland – mpofu

elephant – ndlovu

fauna – silwane

giraffe – dlulamiti

guinea fowl – mpangele

hippopotamus – imvubu

leopard – ingwe

mongoose, meercat – mbira

monkey – inkawu

rhinoceros – bejane

springbok – nsepe

tent – tende

Other Sports

Running – Gijima. High jump – Jampa pezulu. Putting the shot – jugujela lo shatput. Wrestle – bambana. Mile – mayile, To judge, decide, settle or give a ruling “gweba”.

“Get a move on!” – “Faga lo stim (or, petrol)!”

For other athletic events, and for cricket and tennis, English terms are normally used.

18 Travel

Where is the main road? – Upi lo makulu mgwagwa?

Continue straight ahead. When you get close to the shop, turn right.

The main road will be five kilometres further on – Hamba pambili. Loskati went duze ku lo venkile, jiga lapa raiyitsayid. Lo makulu mgwagwa yena fayif kilomitr futi.

Please give me a lift – Muhle wena kwelisa mina.

Where can I get petrol? – Upi mina azi tola lo petrol?

There's no petrol; the garage is shut – Aiziko lo petrol; lo garaj yena valiwe.

When will the garage reopen? – Ipiskati lo garaj yena vula futi?

The day after tomorrow – Ngomsomunye.

I have a can of petrol, but only five litres – Mina kona lo tin ga lo petrol, kodwa fayif litr kupela.

Is the town near? – Lo dolopu yena duze, na?

Never! It's very far. About 20 minutes drive, I estimate – Hayikona! Yena kashane stelek. Mina kabanga wena shayela twenti miniti.

When does the train leave? – Ipiskati lo stimela yena zo hamba?

At 7-50 pm – Skati ka seven-fifti busuku.

We shall go to Durban by car tomorrow – Tina zo hamba nga lo motokali lapa Tekweni ngomso.

At what time will we get to Pietermaritzburg? – Ipiskati tina zo figa lapa Umgungundlovu?

We will get to the town at sunset – Tina zo figa lapa lo dolopu shonalanga.

The road is good ahead – Lo mgwagwa (ndlela) ena lungile pambili.

The road is bad further on – Lo mgwagwa ena mubi baimbai.

We are tired now. We want to eat because we are hungry – Tini diniwe manje. Tina funa idla ndaba tina lambile.

We want to drink tea at an hotel – Tina funa puza lo ti lapa lo hotel. We will bathe in the sea while the children play on the beach – Tina zo dada ku lwandle loskati bantwana ena dlala lapa lo santi.

We shall return home next week – Tina zo buya lapa kaya ga lo vek ezayo.

Crossing a River – Wela.

Show me the way to the river – Bonisa mina lo-ndlela yena hamba lapa ku lo-mfula.

Is there a bridge across the river? – Yena kona lo bologhwe lapa lo-mfula, na?

Is there a drift? – Yena kona lo delef?

Is the water very high? – Yena kona maningi manzi?

Can I ford the river by car? – Mina yazi wela nga lo motokali?

Will the car perhaps get stuck in the drift? – Lo manzi yena zo bamba lo motokali mhlaumbe?

19 Traffic

Motor Vehicles

Watch your rear-view mirror; another car may be wanting to overtake you – Buka lo sibuko; mhlaumbe lo munye futi motokali ena funa dlula.

Don't drive in there; the road is closed – Hayikona ngena lapa; lo mgwagwa yena valiwe.

It's O.K. to drive on the right side of the street here; it's a one-way street – Kulungile wena shayela lapa rayit-sayid; yena lo munye komba stalidi.

Unload here. Jim and Solomon will help you – Kipa mpahle lapa. Lo Jim na lo Solomon zo siza wena.

Look out for pedestrians; children will soon be crossing. I heard the school bell ringing – Basopa mahambi-ganyawo; bantwana zo wela konamanje. Mina izwile lo nsimbi ga lo skul.

Don't park here in front of the gate; there are cars wanting to come out – Hayikona yima lapa pambili ku lo geyit; mamoto yena funa puma.

Where is your windscreen wiper? – Upi yinto yeno sula lo glas?

No hooting is permitted at night – Hayikona shaya lo huta ebusuku.

No parking – Hayikona yima lapa.

Parking one hour – Yima munye auwa kupela.

“Motor vehicles only” – Mamoto kupela.

Motor cycle – Stitutut. Lorries – malori. Slow – gantsani.

Silencer – Yinto yena tulisa.

Bicycles

If you ride your bicycle on the sidewalk the traffic officer will catch you – Noko wena gibela lo baisikil lapa lo ndlela ganyawo lo spekete-la zo bamba wena.

Repair the brakes today – Lungisa mabrik namhla.

The red reflector is lost – Lo glas bomvu emva ena lahlegile.

Pedestrians

Use the marked crosswalk – Wela lapa ku baliwe.

Don't walk in the middle of the road – Hayikona hamba pagati ku lo-mgwagwa.

Don't obstruct the inspector – Hayikona hlupa lo speketela.

Traffic terms

“No herded animals” – Hayikona hambisa silwane lapa.

Your lights are out – Malampu gawena ena file.

“Robot ahead” – Stopayit pambile.

“No entry” – Hayikona ngena.

Keep to the left – Hamba lapa left-sayid kupela.

No right turn – Hayikoa jiga lapa rayit-sayid.

Tail light – Lampu ga-msila; stapayit.

“Road Closed” – Mgwagwa valiwe.

“Cul-de-sac” – Stalidi pela pambili.

“Dead Slow” – “Gantsani Kakulu”.

“One way street” – Munye komba stalidi.

20 Engaging labour

Good day! – Sakubona! (or “Molo!”).

What is your name? – Bani lo gama gawena?

To what tribe do you belong? – Yini lo-mhlobo gawena?

Can you speak Afrikaans? – Wena azi kuluma lo Sibunu?

Can you speak English? – Wena azi kuluma lo Singisi?

No, I can only speak Fanagalo? – Cha, mina kuluma Fanagalo kupela.

What sort of work can you do? – Yini lo-msebenzi wena azi?

I know housework – Mina yazi lo-msebenzi ga lo-ndlu.

I don't want a loafer – Mina hayifuna lo lova.

Where is your identity book? – Ipi lo situpa gawena?

How much money do you want? – (Wena funa) malini?

I will also give you free food and quarters – Mina zo niga wena lo kaya na lo skafuluti.

That's all right – Kulungile.

You can move your baggage in this afternoon – Lungile wena ngenisa lo-mpahle gawena mtambam.

What do you want? – Ufunani wena?

I want work – Mina funa lo-msebenzi.

Do you want food? – Wena funa lo skafu, na?
 Come back tomorrow and I will pay you – Buya lapa ngomso; mina zo batala wena.
 Who is there? – Bani lo?
 Who is this man? Where does he come from? – Bani lo muntu? Upi ena figa?
 How old are you? – Mangaki nyaka gawena?
 I shall start work next month – Mina zo qala msebenzi ga lo-nyango ezayo.
 When did you arrive here? – Ipiskati wena figile lapa?
 When will you start work? – Ipiskati wena zo qala lo-msebenzi?
 Why did you not come yesterday? – Yinindaba wena hayikona figile izolo?
 Where have you been? – Ipi wena hambile?
 When will you come back? – Ipiskati wena zo buya?
 Where is the man who worked in the garden? – Upi lo ndoda ena sebenzile lapa lo gadin?
 Wait a bit – Gahle mbitshan.

21 Domestic service

When the washerwoman arrives give her soap and show her the laundry – Loskati lo washgel yena figa, niga yena lo ntsepu; bonisa yena lo kamela ga lo geza.
 My grandmother is dead; I must go to her funeral tomorrow – Lo mamekulula gamina yena file. Mina funa hamba lapa lo ncwabo ngomso.
 All right. Be sure to return the following day – Kulungile. Buya myanis ngomsomunye.
 Close all the windows when it rains – Vala zonke mafestele loskati lo kamkam yena figa.
 Heavens! What's this mess on the new carpet? – Hau! Yini lo mosha lapa lo nyuwan kapet?
 It must have been a dog. The bitch and her puppies go everywhere – Mina kabanga yena lo injia. Lo injakazi na zonke lo pikanin injia hamba zonke ndawo.
 Why don't you keep them out? – Yinindaba wena hayikona vimbela yena?
 Don't blame me. The backdoor doesn't close properly and the dog pushes it open – Hayi lo-ndaba gamina. No nyango emva hayi funa vala muhle. Lo injia azi shova yena.
 Very well, then. I shall ask the master once more please to mend it – Kulungile, mina zo buza futi lo bas, muhle yena lungisa lo nyango.
 Go and fetch wood – Hamba tata lo-nkuni.
 Put coal in the stove – Faga malahle lapa lo stofu.
 Kindle the fire at 6.30 a.m. – Basa lo-mlilo skati ka sikis teti ekuseni.
 Boil the water – Bilisa lo manzi.
 The water is boiling now – Lo manzi ena bila manje.
 Very well then, make tea – Lungile, enza lo ti.

Put the teapot on the tray – Bega lo tipoti lapa lo treyi.

Wait here: sit down – Linda lapa: hlala pantsi.

Stand up – Yima. Lie down – Lala pantsi. Go and sleep – Hamba lala.

Wake up! – Vuka! Enter! – Ngena! Go outside! – Puma! Be off with you! – Suka!

Put out the fire and switch off the light – Cima mlilo, cima lo layit.

Put the bread in the oven – Faga lo sinkwa pagati ku lo avan.

Clean underneath the table – Sula pantsi ku lo taful.

Answer the telephone when it rings – Loskati lo telefom ena kala, pendula yena.

Give our number to start with – Tshela kuqala lo namba gatina.

When a master talks to you on the telephone ask his name and number – Noko lo-mlungu yena kuluma ga lo telefom, buza lo gama na lo namba gayena.

Call the nurse when the baby cries – Biza lo nesi noko lo bebi ena kala.

We eat at 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. – Tina yidla skati ka seven ekuseni, skati ka wan ntambam, na seven busuku.

Clean the bath first and wash your apron later – Sula lo baf kuqala; washa lo eplon gawena baimbai.

Clean the knife, cut the bread and make toast – Sula lo mes, sika lo sinkwa, enza lo tosti.

Sharpen the knife: it is very blunt – Lola lo mes; ena butundu kakulu.

The woman is polishing the floor – Lo-mfazi ena polisha pantsi.

The food is cooked now – Lo skaf ena vutiwe manje.

Why have you not closed the window? – Yinindaba wena hayi valile lo festele?

Dirty (v) – mosha. Dish – dishi, stisha. Dog biscuits – kukis ga lo injia; dough – daga ga lo sinkwa; lay table – deka; mat – mata; carpet – kapet; serviette – sefeti; saucer – soso.

22 Food

Meat Dishes

- Beef** – nyama ga lo nkomo
- Button** – nyama ga lo mvu
- Lamb** – nyama ga lo mwana
- Pork** – nyama ga lo ngulube
- Dumpling** – dombolo
- Biltong** – biltang
- Polony** – poloni
- Bacon** – bakeni, beykn
- Gravy** – grevi
- Soup** – sobo
- Curry** – kari
- Stew** – stiu
- Venison** – nyamazan

Sweets

- Custard** – kastadi
- cream** – ulaza
- jelly** – jeli
- pudding** – pudeni
- sweet melon** – kabe
- sugar** – shukela

Other

- Kafir corn** – bele
- samp** – sampu
- peanut** – ntongomane
- biscuits** – kukis

nut – noti
maize – mbila
flour – flauwa
brown flour – koring

Fruit and Vegetables

Avocado – nkiwa, mkuwa,
 evokada
banana – banana
beetroot – bitilud
carrots – makelot
fig – figi, kiwane
fruit – mafrut
granadilla – grenadila
grape – greyip
guava – gwava
lettuce – letisi

mango – mengo
naartjie – natshi
onion – anyansi
orange – olintsh
pawpaw – popo
pomegranate – hananadi,
 halananda; pamegrenit
potatoes – mazamban
pineapple – payinapu
peach – pitsh
peas – pizi
pumpkin – tanga
quince – kwipi
radish – redisi
spinach – spinish
tomato – tamata, tamatisi
vegetables – mavejetebel

Set the table at six o'clock. Knives, forks, spoons, side-plates, serviettes – Deka lo taful skati ka sikis. Manayif, maforoko, maspun, pikinin pleyit, maservet.

Check whether there is sugar, milk, salt, pepper and Worcester sauce on the table – Buka noko ena kona lo shugela, melek, sauwti, pele-pele na lo wustasos ku lo taful.

Fry bacon, eggs and tomato for breakfast – Osa lo beykn, lo ekis na lo tamata skati ka brekfs.

Also make some toast – Futi, enza lo tosti.

I don't want porridge this morning – Mina hayi funa lo palitshi kuseni.

Put the beef back in the fridge. My brother has brought some venison – Bega lo-nyama ga lo-nkabi futi lapa lo frij. Lo bruda ga-mina yena figisile lo nyamazan.

Cut up some lettuce, pawpaw and avocado for the salad – Sika letisi, popo na evokado loskati wena enza lo saladi.

Put some custard on the guavas, and icecream on the pudding – Bega lo kastadi pezulu ku lo gwava na lo ayiskrim lapa lo pudeni.

Is the fruit ripe? – Mafrut yena vutiwe, na?

I want to taste the food – Mina funa nambita lo skaf.

23 In the Trading store

Belt – bande
ballpoint – ink pensil
bloomers – mablumas
blouse – baitsh ga lo fazi
brassiere – sapot; pat tu
coat – baitsh

dress – rog, dres
dress material (yard) – iyad
electric globe – glas ga lo layit
expensive – dura, dula
hankie – faduk
leather – skumba

measure – bima
red reflector – staplayit
socks – sokis ganyawo
vest – kous; sokis
sale – mandala

soap – ntsepu
razor – reyiza
electric razor – mtshina ga sheva
weigh – faga skala

A sale is **mandala**, on which goods are cheapened (**tshipisa**). Items that are already cheap are **tshipile**. Longs and shorts are respectively **langwan bruk** and **fishan bruk**.

A cigarette lighter is commonly called **ganlayit**; its wick is **ntambo ga lo ganlyit** and its flint **malahle ga lo ganlayit**.

The cells of a torch (totsh) are **malahle ga lo totsh** or **matshe ga lo totsh**.

24 Money transactions

Cent – sent, senti
50 cent – fiftsent

Rand – shumi; ranti, randi

A cheque is **tshek** or **sheke**, a receipt **risiti** and change is **tshintsh(i)**. To pay is **batala** or **koka mali**. To barter is **enana**. “How much?” is “**Malini?**”

To owe is **kweleta**; a debt or account is **skweleti**.

To borrow is **boleka**; to lend is **tsheleka**.

Price and cost are **biza**, also **bizwa** (literally, what “is asked” for some article).

To deposit money is **valela mali**.

25 Mining

Mining Vocabulary

Note: A very limited selection of mining terms is given here, mainly to assist people involved in small mines and quarries. A much more elaborate vocabulary can be found in the “Miners Dictionary in English, Afrikaans and Fanagalo” issued by the Mines Safety Division of the Chamber of Mines.

On the other hand it is self-evident that no miner lives all the time on the mine. Whether he spends his spare time and his vacations golfing, fishing or gardening, or helping in the domestic scene, he will find much useful material in the other chapters when communicating with Africans who might have only a smattering of English or Afrikaans.

clerk – mabalan
blast – tshisa hol
charge up – cobela
cocopan, ore car – ngolovan
dump (n) – ndunduma
dynamite – jelatin
early shift – vuka tshif
empty trucks – mapanga
gassed – dagiwe ga lo smok
igniter cord – baleka fiyos
jackhammer, rock drill
– madumelan

jumper – jompolo
knee guards – madolo
lash – layisha
misfire – loskelem
mill (crushers) – ngwenya
monorail – wan-wan sporo
slimes – motolo
sorter – mketi
tamp, ram – tampa
tommy bar – pintshapintsh
waste (rock) – mampara
water blast – wotablas

26 Industrial

Tighten the bolt – Fasa lo bawut.

I don't want this short nail; I want a long one – Mina hayi funa lo fishan spikiri; mina funa lo langwan.

Remind the mechanic to inquire from the instructor – Kulumbisa lo makeniki ukuba yena buza lo instrakta.

Read the notice board before you knock off work – Funda lo notis bot pambili ga lo skati wena shayile.

Don't worry the driver – Hayi kataza lo draiva.

The gauge indicates that the tank is now full – Lo gej komba lo tenk yena gwalisele manje.

Bring a lot more bricks; we shall start building tomorrow – Figisa maningi futi mastin; tina zo qala aka ngomso. (kusasa).

Mix the sand and the cement – Hlanganisa lo santi na lo samente.

When the cement has dried we shall erect the poles – Loskati lo samente yena omile tina zo yimsa mapal.

Where were you working before you came here? – Upi wena sebenzile pambili wena fikile lapa?

I have finished my work – Mina qedile lo-msebenzi gamina.

What is the name of this thing? – Yini lo gama ga lo into?

In is a wrench for turning the pipe – Yena lo bobojan yena pendula lo payip.

Which boy must I call? – Yini lo muttu mina yazi biza?

What does he want? – Yini yena funa?

How many boys are there outside? – Mangaki bantu yena kona lapa pandle?

Hit the nail with a hammer – Shaya lo spikiri nga lo hamela.

This machine is driven by electricity – Lo mtshini yena hamba nga lo gesi.

Why did you not mend the machine? – Yinindaba wena hayikona lungisile lo mtshini?

Raise your voice: I can't hear what you're saying – Pakamisa lo izwi gawena: mina hayikona izwa lo kuluma.

What did you say? I think you are telling lies – Utini? Mina kabanga wena kuluma manga.

No, sir, I am telling only the truth – Cha, nkos, mina kuluma mnyanis kupela.

The machine will not injure you – Lo mtshini hayiyazi limaza wena.
Don't go near the electric wire – Hayikona hamba duze ku lo-ntambo ga lo gesi.

Put a stone in front of the wheel – Faga lo litye pambili ku lo wil.

What is the time? – Yini lo skati?

It is one o'clock sharp – Skati ka wan manje.

He worked for one hour only – Yena sebenzile munye auwa kupela.

I want a man who works hard – Mina funa lo muttu yena sebenza stelek.

Look carefully for the place where the water is leaking and mend it – Setsha muhle lo-ndawo upi lo manzi ena vuza; lungisa yena.

I know how to work in a quarry – Mina azi lo-msebenzi lapa lo kwari.

You must wear your hard hat when you go to work – Faga zonke skat lo makalapa loskati wena hamba sebenza.

Earth is mhlabi and **sand** hlabati. “Knocking off time” is skati ga shayile, and the universally welcome command to cease work is “Sha-yile manje!”

Industrial Terms

blast furnace – blas fonis

blacksmith – bleksmit

bossboy – basboy

breakdown – smesh

bushing – bering

canvas tubing – seyil ga lo moyga

clutch (n) – klatsh

coupling rod – hukspayik

crane – kreyn

crusher – ngwenya

dog spike – dokis

drill, jumper – jombolo

drill a hole – shaya holo

elbow – elbo ga lo payip, bend

electric drill – sishikan

fuse lighter – tshisastik

excavate – goda

excavation – mgodi

foundry – fontri

gauze goggles – sefmehlo

helmet, safety hat – makalapa

knocking off (time) – (skati ga) tshayile

lubricator – skodonga

monkey wrench – bobojan

spanela

nail extractor – salamabij, sanamabij

power – stim

quarry – kwari

red hot – bomvu ga lo tshisa

rust – rus, tomba

rusted – tombile

sack, fire, discharge – posa tikit

safety (first) – vimbela ngozi

shift boss – shifbas

shunt – shendela

survey peg – skonkwan

winch – wintsh

workmen – basebenzi

27 Gardening

Do you perhaps know a man who can work in the garden on Tuesdays and Fridays? – Wena azi mhlaumbe lomunye muntu yena funa sebenza lapa lo gadin skati ka Tiusdeyi na Fraideyi futi?.

Mow the lawn with the machine – Sika lo tshani nga lo mtshin.

Kill the beetles with the spray but don't harm any bees – Bulala mabungane nga lo spreyi, kodwa hayikona limaza manyosi.

You must water the garden at five in the afternoon – Tela manzi lapa lo gadin skati ka fayif ntambam.

Pull out all the weeds – Kipa zonk' ukula.

Close the gate when you have entered – Vala lo geyit loskati wena ngenile.

Water the vegetables – Tela manzi lapa mavejetebel.

Don't kill the wagtail; it is a harmless bird – Hayikona bulala lo mvemve; ena mushle nyoni.

Dig here – Yimba lapa.

Dig a hole; put some manure and grass into it; in this way we make compost – Yimba lo-mgodi; faga lo manyoro na lo tshani; tina enza kompos njalo.

When you have dug up the soil, work in some manure and level the ground again nicely – Loskati wena yimbile lo-mhlabati, faga lo manyoro; linganisa lo-mhlabati muhle futi.

This flower likes the shade – Diswan imbali ena tanda lo-mtunzi.

28 Farming

Cattle

Hurry up, go and milk the cows – Hamba tshetsha, senga zinkomo. See the calves don't suck all the milk – Basopa mankonyana ena hayikona ncela zonke melek.

Put the cattle in the kraal – Ngenisa zinkomo lapa lo-mzi.

Go and look for the lost oxen – Hamba funa zinkabi ena lahlegile.

Fasten the gate of the kraal carefully lest the oxen get out at night – Vala muhle lo geyit ga lo-mzi ukuba zinkabi ena hayiyazi puma busuku.

Horses

Catch the horses, groom them and water them – Bamba mahashi, sula yena na puzisa yena.

Put the horses in the stable and give them some oats – Ngenisa mahashi lapa lo stebel; niga yena lo folitsh (lo habile).

Saddle and bridle the horse – Faga lo sal na lo tom lapa lo hashi.

Fodder – Kudla ga lo hashi.

Pound (for animals) – skiti.

Other Animals

The goats have destroyed all the young trees – Zimbuzi ena bulalile zonke pikandin mti.

Take care the lambs don't stray – Basopa zimvwana yena hayi duka.
Did you feed the pigs? – Wena idlisa zingulube, na?

Tell the herdboy to come here at once. He left three lambs outside the kraal and jackals killed them all – Tshela umalusi buya konamanje.
Yena lahlegile matatu mvwana ngapandle ga lo mzi; mapungushe yena bulalile zonke.

Drive away – Xotsha. Bring out – Pumisa. Bring together – Hlanganisa.
Collect – Butela. Castrate, prune – tena.

Drive – shayela; guide (v) – kombisa; chaff – makoba; fodder – foda;
rake – hara, hark; root – mpande; progeny, offspring – lo zalo.

Tractors

Do you know how to drive this tractor? – Wena azi sebenzisa lo treka, na?
Don't waste petrol while filling – Hayikona mosha lo petrol loskati wena gwaliswa.

When you have finished ploughing tell the foreman – Loskati wena qedile lima, tshela lo foloman.

Cultivation

The soil is wet now; go and plant the mealies – Lo-mhlabati yena manzi manje; hamba tshala lo-mbila.

Tomorrow we are going to plough on the other side of the river – Ngomso tina zo lima lapa pesheya.

Put the plough and the harrow on the truck; cross the river and unload on this side of the land – Layisha lo geja na lo hlagula pezulu ku lo troko; wela lo-mfula; etula ena nganeno ga lo-nsimi.

Plant the potatoes – Tshala mazamban.

Lift some potatoes; not too many – Kipa mazamban; hayikona maningi.

Irrigate the peanut crop today – Nisela ntongomane namuhla.

Sorry, the pump is broken – Sori, no pompi yena pugile.

Not so, it only needs some paraffin – Hayikona, yena funa lo parafin kupela.

Load carrots, cabbages, and beetroot into the lorry. I'm going to the market tomorrow morning – Layisha makaloti na maklabish na lo bitilude pagati ku lo lori. Mina zo hamba lapa lo maket kusasa.

29 Magistrate's court

Administration of Oath

Swear that the evidence you give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Put up your right hand and say "So help me God".

Tshela manje wena zo kulumva nyansis kupela. Yimisa lo sandla ga lo raiyitsayid; uti "Nkos-pezulu sinda mina."

acknowledge – vuma
act – mteto
affidavit – sifungo
answer (v) – pendula
answer (n) – mpendulo
arrested – banjwa
ask – buza
assault – shaya
complain – kala, mangala
contradict – pika
convict (n) – bandit, boshwa
convict (v) – gweba
court case – indaba
dagga – dagha, insangu
decide – gweba, nquma
defend – vikela
deny – pika
detective – fokis
document – ncwadi, brif
drunk – dagiwe
evidence – fakazi
give evidence – fakaza
exaggerate – andisa, kulisa
fight (v) – ilwa
fine (n) – fayin
fist – bakela
gamble (v) – bekelana
goal – jele, trongo, stokis, jeyil
guard (v) – basopisa
guilty – kona cala

hard labour – lukuni sebenza;
 stokis
harm, injure – limaza
honest – qoto
hooligans – amalayita, matsotsi
illicit brew – babaton, skokian,
 qediviki
interpreter – toliki
judge (n) – ijaji, mgwebi
judge (v) – gweba
judgment – mgwebo
law – mteto (ga lo hulumende)
listen – lalela, izwa
magistrate – majistlet
mislead – kohlisa
police – poyisa
police van – pikap
question (v) – buza
question (n) – mbuzo, ndaba
remember – kumbula
robber – mtshontshi
sober – hayi dagiwe
stand up – sukuma, pakama
steal – tshontsha
swear – funga, tuka
thief – mtshontshi
truth – nyaniso
try (by law) – teta
understand – qonda
witness (v) – bona
witness (n) – fakaz

30 Swahili and Fanagalo

Swahili, the *lingua franca* of East Africa, is similar in some respects to Fanagalo. Swahili is basically a Bantu language, with Arabic and other modifications, and many of the words in its vocabulary are identical with the Fanagalo equivalents. For instance NYOKA (snake), BABA (father), FIKA (arrive), KUKU (hen), LIMA (cultivate ground), LALA (lie down), LETA (bring) and MBUZI (goat) are identically spelt and pronounced in Swahili and Fanagalo, as are MATE (saliva), MAFUTA (oil, fat), MTI (tree), NA (and, with), NYAMA (meat), NGOMA (drum), NUKA (Stink), NYATI (buffalo), VUNA (reap), and PAKA (cat).

Many other words in the two languages are similar, for instance (the Swahili term is given first, and the Fanagalo term in brackets): Fa (ifa) – die; Fundisha (fundisa) – teach; Hama (hamba) – go; Ingia (nge-na) – enter; Ingi (maningi) – much, many; Kifua (sifuba) – chest; Kosa

(posa) – miss; Kumbuka (kumbula) – remember; Kale (kade) – long ago; Maji (manzi) – water; Mini (mina) – me; Mwaka (nyaka) – year; Mtu (ntu) – person; Mvua (mvula) – rain; Mzungu (mlungu) – White man; Mwana (mtwana) – child; Nguruwe (ngulube) – pig; Tuliza (tulisa) – pacify; Uma (luma) – bite, hurt; Usiku (busuku) – night; ulimi (limi) – tongue; Wakati (skati) – time; Wewe (wena) – you; Zito (nzi-ma) – heavy. Counting is also similar, for instance: Moja (munye) – one; Mbili (mabili) – two; Tatu (matatu) – three; Kumi (shumi) – ten.

DOGO means “small” and KIDOGO “a little”. MKUBWA is “big”, hence BWANA MKUBWA (big boss) and NYOKA MKUBWA (python). A zebra is PUNDA MILIA.

When you go on SAFARI with the ASKARI for the purpose of shooting SIMBA and TEMBO (elephant) you can make a MOTO (fire) which will give off MOSHI (smoke) while you cook the CHAKULA, (food), consisting of MKATE (bread) and CHAI (tea) for which you have paid good PESA (money) to the MWARABU (Arab) along the BARABARA (road). When you arrived at the Arab's shop you said JAMBO (hullo) and exchanged SALAMU (greetings). To your enquiry HODI! (may I enter) the Arab replied KARIBU (enter) and not HAPANA (no). In the DUKA (shop) you dealt in SENTI, SHILINGI, SENTI TANO (5 cents) and SENTI KUMI (10c).

Swahili, because of its grammatical inflections, is by no means as simple a language as Fanagalo.

31 How to translate

When consulting this dictionary for the Fanagalo version of a particular English word don't panic if the word you have in mind is missing from the English side of the vocabulary. Just think of a synonym – the simpler the better – and then look again. For instance take a group of terms like: abide, dwell, remain, reside, sit, sojourn. These words may or may not appear in the vocabulary, but they all have the basic meaning “to stay”, for which the Fanagalo equivalent is “hlala”. The reason why *all* the variations of English words are not quoted in this booklet is that such a process would make it too bulky for a handy pocket-size guide.

The same process of simplification applies to the translation of phrases and sentences. How would you translate this sentence into Fanagalo? – “The cerebral malfunctioning of the neophyte is attributable to psychological disturbance”. Elementary, my dear Watson – “lo nyuwan hayi qonda muhle ndaba yena gula lapa lo skop”, which in simple English signifies that “the beginner can't think straight because he's sick in his head.” That is an extreme illustration, but the principle remains the same: whatever you want to translate, extract the real meaning BEFORE you translate. Even the most pretentious words and

phrases can be dealt with in this manner. Thus ESCALATING = INCREASE = ANDA, and DIALOGUE = TALK = KULUMA. One could almost say that anyone who spent a little time on translations into Fanagalo would find himself thinking more clearly as a result!

How to Use the Vocabulary

To find the equivalent of any word, go to the vocabulary at the end of this booklet, either the English-Fanagalo or the Fanagalo-English. If you can't find the word you want, refer to the appropriate section, such as Mining, Industrial, Sport, Medical, Magistrate's Court or Money Transactions.

32 English – Fanagalo Dictionary

Note: Abbreviations used are (n) noun; (v) verb; (pl) plural; (adj) adjective; (vi) verb intransitive; (vt) verb transitive.

A

abandon (leave) – shiya
able – azi
abode – mzi
above – pezulu
abdomen – sisu
abscess – tumba
absent – lovile; hayi figile
absentee (from work) – lova
accident – ingozi, smesh
accident prevention –
 vimbela-ngozi
accompany – hamba na
account (n) – skweleti
accuse – mangala
acetylene – kabaiyid, asetalin
acid – esid
acknowledge – vuma
act (v) – enza
Act (n) – mteto
actual – kona mpela
adapt – lungisela
add – hlanganisa
advice – luleko
advise – luleka
aeroplane – flaimashin, banoyi
affair – indaba
affection – tanda
affidavit – sifungo
afflict – hlupa
afflicted – hlupekile
afraid – saba
Afrikaans – Sibulu
after – emva, muva
afternoon – mtambam; muva
 ga mini.
afterwards – mbaimbai
again – futi
age – budala

aged – dala, madala
agree – vuma
agreement (contract) – kontlati
ahead – pambili
aid (v) – siza
aid (n) – sizwa
air (n) – moya
air hose – ntambo ga lo smok
alarm (frighten) – sabisa
alarm (warn) – basopisa
alcohol – alkoli, tshwala
alike – fana, fana na
alive – kona, izwa
all – zonke
allay, alleviate – tulisa
allow, authorise – vumela
all right – lungile
almanac – kalenda
almost – pose, ampur
alone (only, all there is) – kupela
alone (by himself, solitary) –
 yedwa
already – manje
also – futi
although – noko
always – zonkeskat
a.m. (daybreak to noon) –
 ekunseni; kusasa
amber – mpofu
ambulance – ambulens (pl.
 ma-ambulens)
amputate – nquma
amuse – dlalisa, hlegisa
ancestor – koko
and – na
angel – ingelosi
angling – doba
angry – kwata, tukutele

animal – silwane
ankle – qakala
annoy – kataza, kwatisa
annoyance – inkatazo
another – munye, omnye
answer (v) – pendula, sabela
answer (n) – mpendulo
ant – ntutwane
any – uto
anybody, anyone – munye
 muntu; omnye.
any day – mhlaumbe munye langa
any more – lomunye
anything – uto; noko munye
 into; mhlaumbe munye into
anything ("nothing is particular") – luto
any time – mhlaumbe munye
 skati
anywhere – noko upi ndawo;
 mhlaumbe munye mdawo
apple – apele, apula
approach (v) – sondela
apricot – pilikos
April – Epril
apron – eplon
aptitude test – malabalaba
are – kona
arid – omile
argue – pikisana
arm (n) – ingalo
armpit – kwapa
around – jigela
arrest – bamba
arrested – banjwa
arrive – figa
army – impi
artery – mtambo ga lo bomvu
 gazi
ash(es) – mlota
ask – buza
asleep – lele, lala
assault – shaya
assegai – mkonto
assemble (v) – hlangana
assembly (n) – mhlangano
assist – siza
astonish – mangalisa
at – lapa, kwa, ku

atmosphere – moya
attempt (v) – linga
audible – izwakala
audit – odit
August – Agosi
aunt (paternal) – dadewobaba
aunt (maternal) – mamekazi
aunt – anti
Autumn – Kwindla
avert – vimbela
awake – vukile
axe – tshapu, zembe
axle – tshaf, i-asi

B

baby – bebi
back (of body) – mhlane
backbone – mhlandla
backwards – muva, emva
bad – bubi, mubi, hayimuhle
bag – saká
baggage – mpahla
bait – tiyo
bake – osa
balance (v) – lingana
balance (scales) (n) – skali
bald – mpandla
bale (n) – bele, bero
bale (v) – kipa (manzi)
ball – bol
ballpoint pen – ink pensil
banana – banana, banan
bandage – bendej
bangle – songo
bank (commercial) – bangi
bank note(s) – pepa mali
bankrupt (become) – shona
Bantu ("Brown People") –
 Abanstsundu
bantu (people in general; persons) – bantu
bargain – tshipisa
bark (v) – konkota
bark (of tree) – ixolo
barley – bali
barn – stolo
barrel – faji

barter – enana
basket – basket
bath (n) – baf
bath (v) – geza lomzimba
bathe – geza, washa, hlamba
battery – beteri
be – kona
bead(s) – buhlalu
beard – silevu
bean – mbontshi, indumba
beast – silwane
beat (v) – beta, shaya
because – ndaba, kukuba, ukuba, kona.
bed – mbede
bedbug – imbungulu
bedroom – kamela ga lala
bee – nyosi
(queen bee) – nkosi nyosi
beef – nyama ga lo-nkabi
beer – tshwala
beetle – bungane
before (place) – pambili (ku)
before (time) – pambili ga lo skati; kuqala
beg – cela
begin – qala
behind – muva, emva
belch – bodla, pafuza
belief – nkolo
believe – kolwa, kabanga
bell – nsimbi; klok
bellows (forge) – mvuto
belly – sisu
below – pansi, pantsi
belt – banti, bande
bend (v) – goba
bend (cause to) – gobisa
bent (adj) – gobekile
beside – duze ku
best – muhle stelek, muhle mpela
better (in health) – dlulayo, pila, betele, lungile
between – nga-pagati
beware – basopa
bewilder – dukisa
bewitch – tagata
bewitched – tagati
Bible – Baibel

bicycle – baisikil
big – makulu
bile – nyongo
bind – bopa, fasa
bioscope – bayiskopu
bird – nyoni
birth – ukuzala, ukuzalwa
biscuits – kukis
bitch – injakazi
bite (v) – luma
bitter – babayo
black – mnyama, minyama
blackboard – sleyit, bodi
blame – ndaba ga; sola
blanket – ngubo, gombezo, bulanket
bleed – puma lo gazi
bless – sikelela, busisa
blind (adj) – mpumpute; hayibona; mehlo hayi buka
blood – gazi
bloodvessel – mtambo
bloomers – mablumas
blossom (n) – imbalu
blow (breeze) – pepeta, vunguza
blow (the fire) – vutela
blow (the nose) – finyeza
blue – bluwan
blunt – butundu; hayikona juba
boat – skepe
board (n) – bodi
board (v) – kwela
body – mzimba
boil (v) – bila
boil (cause to) – bilisa
bold – nesibindi; hayi saba
bone – tambo
bonsella – basela
bonus – basela
book – buk, ncwadi
bookkeeper, accountant – mbali
boot – skatula
bore (drill) (v) – bola
borrow – boleka, tsheleka
born – zalwa
boss – bas
bossboy – basboy
both – babili, mabili

both (of them) – yenababili
bother – kataza
Botswana (territory) – Botswana
bottle – bodela
bottle store – stolo ga lo tshwala
bottom – lapa pansi
boulder – (makulu) litshe
box (n) – bokis
box (v), boxing – dlala nga bakela
bowel – tumbu
bowels – matumbu
boy – boy; mfan (pl. bafan)
brag, bluff – gaba
brake – breyik, briki
brain (n) – bukopa, bucopa
brandy – brendi
brassiere – sapot
brave – nesibindi; hayi saba
bread – sinkwa
break (vi) – puga
break (vt) – pula
break in (horse, etc.) – tambisa,
 fundisa
break wind, pass wind – suza
breath – moya, impfumulo
breathe – pefumula
breast (female) – mbele
breed (v) – zala, fuya
brick – stin
bride – mkoti
bridge (n) – bologhwe, bulughwe
bridegroom – myeni
bridle (n) – tom
brighten – kanyisa
bring – figisa, leta, landa
bring back – buyisa
bring in – ngenisa
bring together – butela
broad – banzi
broom – mshanyelo
brother – bruda
brown – nsundu
bucket – bakete
bug (see **bedbug**)
build – aka
bull – nkunzi
bundle (n) – bondela
burn (n) – silondo-ga-mlilo
burner – bonela

burst (v) – dabuka
bushing – bering
bushtick – kaza, kazane.
bury (a corpse) – tshala, ncwaba,
 fihla
busy – bizi; maningi msebenzi
but – kodwa
butcher – busha, butsha
butter – botela
butterfly – mvemvane
buttermilk; sour milk – masi
buttocks – sinqe
button – knopi
buy – tenga
buyer – mtengi
by (position) – lapa
by (agency) – nga, ga

C

cabbage – klabish
cable (electric) – kebul; ntambo
 ga lo ges
cackle – kekela
caddie – kedi
calculate – bala
calf (animal) – konyane
call (v) – bisa
calm – tulile
calm (v) – dambisa
can (v) – azi, yazi
candle – kandlela
cannibal – dlabantu
cannot – hayiyazi (enza)
canvas – seyil
capsize – wisa, pendula
capsized – iwile, wile
car – motokali
carbide – kabaiyid
carcass – dumbu
carefully – gahle
carpenter – kapenta
carpet – kapet
carrot – kaloti, makelot
carry – pata, twala
carve – juba
castor oil – kasta oil

castrate – tena
cat – katsi, kitsi, paka
cat (mother) – katsikazi
catch (v) – bamba
cattle – zinkomo
caught – banjwa
cease – pela
cement – samente
cemetery – kwamatuna
cent – sent, peni
centre – pagati mpela
certainly! – yebo! nyanis!
certificate – setifiket
certify – bala setifiket
chain (n) – tsheyini, ketang
chair (n) – sihlalo, stul
chance – tuba, loskat
change (v) – tshintsha
change (money) (n) – tshintshi
change money (v) – tshintsha
changeroom – tshintsh haus
chase away – sukisa, balekisa
cheat (v) – kohlisa
cheap – tshipile
cheapen – tshipisa
cheek (of face) – sihlati
cheerful – tokozile, jabulile
cheeky – tshiki; kona tshik
cheese – shizi
cheque – tshek
chest (of body) – sifuba
chew (v) – hlafuna, luma
Chief – Nkosi
chief (of kraal) – numzan
child – mtwana, ngane; pikanin
children – bantwana
chimney – shimula
chin – silevu
chisel – tshizel
chocolate – tshokoleti
choke (v) – gwinca, binda
choose – keta
chop (v) – gaula, gawula
chopper – tshapu, pikanin zembe
Christ – Kristu, Krestu
Christianity – kolwa ga Krestu
Christmas (Box) – Kisimus,
 Krismus
church – sonteni

cigarette – sigaret, sikilidi
cigarette lighter – ganlayit
cinema – bayiskopu
circle – lo rawund
circus – strongimani
clean (v) – sula
clean (adj), cleaned – suliwe
clerk – mabalan, mbali
clerical services – msebenzi
 ga lo mabalan
clever – hlakanipile
climb, mount – kwela
clock – watch
close (v) – vala
close (near) – duze
cloth – duku, limbo, lapi
clothes – mpahla, ngubo
cloud – ifu
clouds – mafu
club (stick) – duku
coal (n) – malahle
coat – baitsh
cock (fowl) – qude; ndoda ga
 lo-nkuku
cock (tap) – tep, tapu
cocoa – koukou
cockroaches – magugu
coffee – kofi
cold (adj) – makaza
cold (flu) – mkuuhlane
collar – kololo
colleague – wetu
collect – buta, hlanganisa
colour (n) – mbala, mhlobo
colours – mabala
comb – kam
come – figa
come back – buya
come closer – sondela
come from – vela
come out – puma
comfort (v) – duduza
compare – linganisa
compel – nyanzela
complain – kala, lila, mangala
compost – kompos
compound (n) – komponi
compound manager – komponi
 maneja

commando – impi
complete (v) – qedis
computer – komputa
conceal – dukisa, fihla
confirm – qinisa
congregate – buta
connecting link – shekel
conquer – hlula
consent (v) – vuma
consent (n) – lo yumelo
console – duduza
consult – bonisana
continue – enza futi
continuously – njalo-njalo
contract (agreement) – kontlati, joyin
contradict – pika
converse (v) – kuluma
convict (n) – bandit, banjwa
cook (v) – pega
cook (n) – kuk, mpegi
cooked – vutiwe
cool – polile; mkaza-mbitshan
(is) **cool** – polile
cool off – pola
copulate – hlangana, jiga, lalana
copulate (animals) – kwela
copy (v) – fanisa
cord – igoda, ntambo
cork – sivalo, lo valo, propi
corner (n) – konela
corpse – sidumbu
correct (v) – lungisa
correct (adv) – lungile
cost – mali, malini?
cotton wool – boyaa, katonwul
couch – sihlalo, soufa
cough – kohlela, kwehlela
cough (n) – kohlokokohlo
count (v) – bala, hlanganisa
country – lizwe, mhlabati
courage – sibindi
court (woo) (v) – shela
court case – indaba
cover (v) – vala
cover (n) – silvalo, lo valo
covet – fisa
cow (n) – nkomo, nkomazi
coward – gwala

crack (v) – dabuka
crash (v) – wowa, smesh
crawl – kasa
cream – ulaza, krim
create – dala
creator – mdali
Creator – Mdali
credit (buying) – tenga sikwerete
cricket – krikit
crooked – gobile; hayi streyit
cross (n) – spambano
cross over – wela, dlula
crow (bird) – igwababa
crowbar – jimkrou
cruel – nonya
crush (v) – gaya
crust – koko
crutches – nduku ga hamba
cry (v) – kala
cry out (shout) – memeza
cupboard – kabete
cure (v) – pilile
current (elec) – ges
curse (v) – tuka
curtain – keteni
custom – nkambiso
cut (v) – sika, juba
cup – komitshi
cyanide – sayinet

D

dagga – dagha, insangu
dairy – deri
dam – dam
damage (v) – pula, bulala
dance (v) – sina, dansa
dance (n) – dans, mdanso, msino
dance (tribal) – mshongolo
danger – ingozi
dangerous – nengozi
dark – mnyamana
date – langa
daughter – intombazana
dawn – kusasa
day – ntsuku, langa
daytime – skati ka langa

dead – file
deadly – bulalayo
deaf – hayi azi izwa
dear (in price) – dura
death – ukufa, gufa, sifo
debt – skweleti
December – Disemba
deceive – kohlisa
decide – gweba
decline (refuse) (v) – ala; hayi vuma
decompose – bola
deep – pansi stelek
defecate – bosha
defend – vikela
dehydrate – omisa
dehydrated – omile
delay (v) – libala
delight (v) – jabulisa, tokozisa
deny – pika
deposit – valela mali
descend – ehla
desire (v) – fisa, funa
desk – deseki
detective – fokis
detonator – dopi
Devil – Satan
dew – mazolo
diagram – mfanekiso
diamond – dayimani
diarrhoea – hudo
die (v) – ifa
different – hayikona fana
difficult – nzima, lukuni
dig – yimba, imba
dim – hayi kanye muhle
dinner – dina
direct (v) – komba
dirt, dirty – doti, bubi
disappear – duka
dish – ndish, sitsha
dishcloth – faduk
dislike (v) – hyitanda
distance – stuba
distant – kashana, kude
divide (v) – ahluka (nisu)
do – enza
doctor (n) – dokotela
document – ncwadi, brif

dog – inja
dog (wild) – makanyan
doll – popi
done – enzile
donga – donga
donkey – bongolo, donki
don't – hayikona, musa
don't know – hayiyazi
don't see – hayibona
don't want – hayifuna
door – nyango, sivalo
dove – juba
down – pansi
drag (v) – donsa
draw (line, sketch) – dweba
draw wages – hola
draw (pull) (v) – donsa
dream (v) – pupa
dream (n) – lo pupo
dress (frock) – rog, dres
dressing (medical) – bendej, mdweshwana
dressings – madweshwana
dressing station – sibedlele
dried – omile
drift (ford) (n) – delef
drink (v) – puza
drinking water – puzamanzi
drip (v) – tonsa
drive (v) (car, cart) – shayela
driver – draiva, shayeli
drive (animals) **away** – xotsha
drop (v) – iwisa
drop (n) (of water, etc.) – tonsi
down – minzisa, shona
drum (musical) – ngoma, sigubo
drum (machinery) – drom
drum (container) – kokok, tin, konka
drunk – dagiwe
dry (v) – omisa
dry (become) – oma
duck (bird) – idada
dumb – hayi kuluma
dump – ndunduma
dust (v) – sula
dust (n) – tuli
duty – msebenzi, mfanelo
dynamite – jalatin
dynamo – moto yena enza lo ges

E

ear – ndlebe
earache – ukuwelwa-ga-ndlebe
early (in the day – kuseni
earth (world) – mhlaba
East – Pumalanga
easy – lula
eat – idla, puza
edit, arrange – hlela
editor – mhleli
eel – mbokwane
egg – qanda, ekis
eight – eyit
eighteen – eyitin
eighty – eyiti
elastic – joloba
elbow (n) – noneba, ndolowane
electric globe – glas ga lo layit
electric motor – moto ga lo ges
electricity – ges
elevator – lifi
eleven – leven
embankment – donga
embrace – bambana
emetic – mhlanziso
employ (v) – sebenzisa
empty – emti; kona nikis pagati
end (n) – lapa yena pela
end (v) – pela
ended – pelile
engineer – injiniya
English – Singisi
enough – lungile manje
enquire – buza
enter – ngena
entrails – matumbu
envelope – evelopu
envy – umona
epilepsy – stutwane
epsom salts – soda, sawuti
erect (v) – imisa, aka
error – masteyk
evening – kusishwa, tshonalanga
every – zonke
every day – zonke ntsuku
every time – zonkeskat
everywhere – zonke ndawo

evidence – fakazi
evidence (give) (v) – fakaza
evil – ububi, mubi
exaggerate – andisa, kulisa
examine, test, investigate –
 setsha
excel – dlula
exchange – enana
exclamation: –
 (of wonderment) – au! hau!
 (of disapproval) – atsh!
 (of disgust) – x!
exist – kona
exhaust (pipe) – egzos (payip)
exit – ndawo ga puma
expensive – dura; maningi mali
explosion – duduma
extinguish – cima
extra – futi
extract – kipa, pumisa
eye – iso. iliso, ihlo
eyes – mehlo

F

face – buso
factory – fektri
faith, trust – temba
fall (v) – iwa, wowa
fallen – wile, iwile
fan – fen
fanbelt – fenbelt
far – kude, kashane
fart (v) – suza
farm – fam, plas, pulazi
fascinate – tandisa
fast (starve) – hayikona idla;
 hayikona puza; yeka lo kudla
fasten – bopa, fasa
fat – mafuta
father – baba
fault (your) – ndaba ga wena
favour – musa
fear – saba
fearless – nesibindi; hayi saba
feather – pape, nsiba
February – Febuwari

feed (give food to) – idlisa
feel – izwa
feet (measure of length) – fiti
fertilizer – manyoro
fetch – hamba tata; figisa, landa,
 leta, tola
fever – fiva
few – mbitshan
field rat – ibuzi
fifteen – fiftin
fifty – fifti
fight (v) – ilwa
file – fayil
fill (v) – gwalisa
film – filum
find (v) – tola
finger (n) – munwe
fingernail – zipo
finish (v) – qeda; pela
finished – qedile; pelile
fire (n) – mlilo
fire (a gun) (v) – dabula
fire extinguisher – tanka yena
 cima mlilo
firefly – inkanyezi
first(ly) – kuqala
first-aid post – sibedlele
firewood – nkuni
fish (v) – doba
fish (n) – ntlanzi, fish
fist – bakela
fit (epileptic) – stutwane
five – fayif, hlanu
fix (v) – lungisa
flame (n) – mlilo
flap (v) – papa
flat (adj) – lelisiwe
flea – intwakumba, zenze
floor – pantsi
flower – imbali
'flu (see **influenza**)
fly (n) – mpukane
fly (v) – diza
fold (v) – songa
follow – landela
food – skaf(u), kudla
fool (n) – situta, spukupuk,
 mampara
foot – nyawo

(on) **foot** – ganyawo
foot (12 inches) – fut
football – futbol
forage (n) – folish, kudla
ford (v) – wela
ford (n) – delef
foreman – foloman
forest – hlati
forget – kohla
fork – foroko
forty – foti
forward (in front) – pambili
fountain – mtombo
four – fo, sine, mane
fowl – kuku
fracture (vt) – pula
fragrant – nuka mnandi; nuka
 muhle
fresh – nyuwan: hayikona madala
Friday – Fraideyi
friend – wetu, ngane, mata
fridge – frij; makaza bokis
frighten – sabisa
frock – rog, dres
frog – isele
front – nga-pamble
fruit – frut, sitelo, hlamvu
frost – sitwatwa
fry (v) – osa
full – galile
fumes – smoko
funeral – lo ncwabo; tshala
furniture – mpahle ga lo kaya
fuse – fiyos
fuse-lighter – tthisastik
future – skati nga-pamble

G

gall – nyongo
gallon – galoni
gamble (v) – bekelana
game (buck or bird) – nyamazan
game (play) – mdlalo
gang(team) – genge, span
goal – jele, trongo, stokis, jeyil
garage – garaj, galatsh

garment – ngubo
gas – smok
gate – sango, geyit
gather – wola, hlanganisa,
 butela
gauge – geyij, gej
gelatine, gelignite – jalatin
gentleman – nene
gently – gahle
German – Jaliman
Germans – Majaliman
Germany – Kwamajaliman
get (v) – tola
get away – suka
get into – ngena
get off – suka
get on – kwela
get out – puma
get up – vuka, pakama
gift – basela, isipo, nigelo
ghost – spuki, moya
gin – jin
girl – intombi
girl (little) – intombazan
give – niga
glass – glas, nglazi
glasses – maglas; mafestele ga
 mehlo
globe (electric) – glas ga lo ges
glove – glac, sandla
go back – penduka
go in – ngena
go away! (imperative) – suka!
go for walk – hamba fagash
go out – puma
go slow – libala
goat – mbuzi
God – Nkulunkulu, Tixo,
 Nkos-pezulu, Modimo
gogga (insect, etc.) – ghogho,
 nunu, silwanekazane
goggles – mafestele ga mehlo
gold – golide mali
golf – golof
gone – hambile
gone bad – bolile

gong – ntsimbi
good – muhle
Good Day! – Sakubona! Molo!
Good Morning! – Molo!
goods – mpahla
goose – hansi
govern – busa
government – hulumende
governor – umbusi
grade (v) – keta
grain – kolweni, hlamvu
grandfather – babankulu
grandmother – mamekulu
grandparent – koko
grasp (v) – bamba
grass – tshani
grasshopper – ntete, sikonyane
grave (n) – tuna, ncwabo
graves – matuna
graveyard – kwamatuna
graze – klabla
graze (put to) – klabisa
grease (n) – gris, mafuta
great – kulu
green (adj) – luhlaza
greetings! – dumela!
grey – mpunga
grief – sizi
grill (v) – osa
grin (v) – sineka
grind (by hand) – gaya
groove – msele
ground, earth – mhlabo
ground nut – ntongomane
grow – kulu, mila
grumble – kala
guard (v) – basopa, basopisa
guava – gwava
guide (n) – mholi
guide (v) – kombisa
guilt – cala
guilty – kona cala
guinea pig – ginipigi
guitar – kitar
gullet – minzo
gulp down – minza
gun – mbumbulu
guns – mabumbulu
gutter – msele ga lo manzi

H

habit – nkambiso
hacksaw – sagha yena juba
 ntsimbi
hailstones – matshe; matshe ga
 lo zulu
hair – nwele (pl. zinwele)
hair oil – mafuta ga lo skop
half – haf
halt (v) – yima, jama, ema
hammer (n) – hamela, sando,
 isando
hand (n) – sandla
handkerchief (see “hankie”)
handle (n) – handel
handle (touch) (v) – pata
handlebars – zipondo ga lo
 baiskil
hang up – jingisa
hankie – duk, faduk
happy (v) – jabula
hard – lukuni stelek
hard hat – makalapa, skoko
harm (v) – limaza
harm (n) – ngozi
harmonise, harmony – vuma
 ga mnandi
harrow (v) – hlagula
harvest (v) – vuna
harvest (n) – lo mvuno
hashish (see “dagga”)
hasten – tshetsha
hat – sicoko, skoko, hut
hatch – fukamela
hatchet – thsapu
hate (v) – zonda, enyanya
hatred – zondo
haul (v) – donsa
have – kona
he – yena, yenadoda
head – skop, skanda, ntloko
headache – tshisa lapa skop;
 ukuwelwa ntloko
headman of kraal – numzan,
 induna
heal – pilisa, sindisa, pola, polisa
health – mpilo

healthy – pilile
hear – lalela; izwa lo kuluma
heat – tshisa
heart – hliziyio, intliziyio
heater (immersion) – tshisastik
heaven – zulu, lozulu
heavy – nzima, sinda
heel – sitende
height – stuba pezulu
hell – sihogo; ndawo ga bubi
help (v) – siza, helepa
helper – msizi
hemp (Indian) – insangu
hem (v) – peta
hem (n) – mpeto
hen – kukukazi
her – yena, yenakazi
herd (v) – alusa
here – lapa
hers – gayena
hidden – fihlile
hide (v) – fihla
hide (n) – skumba
high – pakamile, pezulu
hill – ntaba
him – yena, yenadoda
hinder – vimbela
hip – nyonga
hire (v) – qasha
his – gayena
hit (v) – shaya, beta
hoe (n) – pek, geje
hoe (v) – hlagula
hog – ngulube
hold (v) – bamba
hole – mgodi, bobo
holiday – holideyi kufagash
holy – ngwele, ngcwele
home – kaia
honest – qoto
honey – uju ga lo nyosi
honey bee – nyosi
hook – huk
hooligan – layita; tsotsi
hooligans – amalayita; matsotsi
hoot – shaya lo huta
hope – temba
horn – mpondo
horse – hashi

horseman – mgibeli
hose (air) – ntambo ga moya
hose (water) – ntambo ga manzi
hospital – spetele, sibedlela
hot – tshisa, shushu
hotel – hotela
hour – auwa
house – ndlu
how? – kanjani? or kunjani?
how are you? how goes it?
 how's things? – kanjani?
how many? – mangaki?
however – noko, kodwa
how often? how many times? – mangaki skat?
hungry – lambile
hunt (v) – zingela
hunter – umzingeli
hurry – tshetsha
hurt – buhlungu, limaza
husband – ndoda (pl. madoda)
hush! – tula!
hut – kaia, ndlu, ndluwana

I

I – mina
ice – ayis
idolise – tanda kakulu
if – noko, loskati
ignorant – hayi fundile
ill – gula
illuminate – kanyisa
imiate – fanisa
immediately – konamanje, katesi
important – nzima, pakeme
impotent – hayi mandla
in – pagati
inch – intsh
increase – anda
indigestion – silungulelo
infect – sulela
inflate – futa; faga moya
inform – tshela
influenza – fluyenza, mkuhlane
inject – jova

injection – mjobo
injure – limaza
injured – buhlungu, limele
inoculate – jova
inoculation – mjobo
insect – silwanekazane, nunu
insert – ngenisa; faga pagati
inside – pagti
insolent – tshiki
insolvent (see "bankrupt")
inspan – bopela
inspektor – speketala
instantly – konamanje
instruct – fundisa
insult (v) – tuka
intelligent – hlakanipile
into – pagati
inquire – buza
interpreter – toliki
intestine – tumba
intestines – matumbu
intoxicated – dagiwe
invite – mema
iron (n) – ntsimbi, nsimbi
iron (v) – ayina
is – kona
it – yena, ena
itch – nwaya
its – gayena
ivory – zinyo ga-ndlovu

J

jack – jek
jacket – baitsh
jail – stokis, trongo
jam – jem
January – Januwari
jaw – mhlati
jealousy – umona
jelly – jeli, ntikintiki
jerzey – jezi
jigger fleas – matekini
job – job, msebenzi
Johannesburg – Janasbek, Igoli
joint (vt) – hlanganisa
joint (vi) – hlangana, joyina

joke (v) – tekula
joke (n) – hlaya
journey (v) – hamba lapa ndlela
journey (n) – lo hambo
joy – njabulo
judge (n) – ijaji, mgwebi
judge (v) – gweba
judgement, conviction –
 mgwebo
jug – jag
July – Julayi
June – Juni

K

kettle – ketile, ketl
key – ki, slutulelo
kick – kaba, kahlela
kill – bulala
kind (type) – mhlobo
kindle – basa
King – Nkosi
kiss (v) – qabula, anga
kitchen – kishi
knee – dolo
kneel – guqa
knife – mes, nayif
knobkerrie – duka
knock (v) – shaya
knock off work – shayile
knot – not
know – azi, yazi
knowledge – ukwazi
kraal – mzi, kaya

L

label – stikitan
labour (n) – msebenzi
labour (v) – sebenza
labourer – mutu yena sebenza
ladder – lada
lady – inkosikas, inkosikazi
lamb – imvwana

lamb (meat) – nyama ga lo
 mvwana
lame – gwalela
lamp – lampu, lamp
land – mhlabati, lizwe
language – limi
last, lastly – kuqedini
late – lati, leyit
later on – mbaimbai
latrine – boshi
laugh – hlega
laughter – lo hlego
law – mteto (ga lo hulumende)
lay (egg) – zala
lay (table) – deka
lay (down) – bega
lazy – lova
lead (v) – hamba pambili; hola
lead (animals) – kokela
lead (metal) – mtofu
leader – mkokeli, mholi
leaf of tobacco – samba
leak (v) – vuza
leak (n) – ndawo yena vuza
learn – funda
learned – fundile
learner – nyuwan
leather – skumba
leave (abandon) – shiya, yeka
leave (alone) – yeka
leave (go off, away) – hamba, suka
leave (of absence) – lif(u) (ga
 vakasha)
left (gone) – hambile
left (behind) – shiyile
left (hand side) – leftsayid, lapa
 kohlo
leg – mlenze
lemon – lamun, lamulo
lend – tsheleka, boleka
length – bude
lessen – bitshanisa
let go – yeka
letter – brif, ncwadi
lettuce – letisi
level (v) – linganisa
level (n) – level
level crossing – koros ga
 sporo, dlula sporo

liar – laya
lice – matwala
licence – mtelø, laisens
lid – deksel
lie (untruth) – manga
lie down – lala
life – kona, izwa
lift (n) – lifi
lift (v) – pakamisa
lift (give a – to) – kwelisa
light (in weight) – lula
light (illumination) (v) – kanya,
 layita
light (n) – lampu, layit
light up (illuminate) – kanyisa,
 layita
light (a fire) – basa
lightning – mbane, zulu
like (be fond of) – tanda
liken (v) – fanekisa
likeness – mfanekiso
like this – fana ga lo
lime – kalik
line – layin
lip – debe
listen – lalela, izwa, mameila
little – mbitshan, pikanin
litre – litr
live (v) – pila
liver – (n) – sibindi
load (v) – layisha
load (n) – mtwalo
loafer – lova
lock (v) – kiya
locust – sikonyane
long – mde, mude, longwan
long ago, long time – kade
long way – kude
longs – langwan bruk
look at – buka
look out! – basopa!
loosen – kumula, kulula, yekelela
lorry – lori
lose – lahlega
lost – lahlegile
louse – ntwalla
love (v) – tanda
love (n) – lo tando
low – pansi

lower (v) – hambisa pansi
lucerne – lusene
luggage – mpahla
lukewarm – tshisa mbitshan;
 dikidiki
lullaby – mbongo
lung – mpungu
lungs – mapungu, mapapu

M

machine – mtshini
machine gun – sigwagwa
mad – hlanya, hlanyile
madam – misis
magic – tagati
magistrate – majistlet
mailbag – posisaka
maize – mbila
make (v) – enza, aka
make right – lungisa
malaria – mfiva
male – ndoda
malingerer – lova
malt – tombo
mamba – mamba
man – ndoda (pl. madoda)
mango – mengo
manure – manyoro
many – maningi
manager – meneja
March – Matsh
mark (n) – maka
mark (v) – komba
married – ganile, gamile
marry – gana; tata mfazi; shada
massage – hlikihla
master – nkosi, bas
matches – metshs, mentshis
mate, pal – wetu
May – Meyi
me – mina
mealies – (see “maize”)
mealie meal – mpupu
measure (v) – linganisa, bima
meat – nyama
medicine, medicament – muti

meet – hlangana
memory – kumbulo
men – madoda
mend (sew) – tunga
mend (repair) – lungisa
mess (v) – mosha; enza doti
mess (n) – doti
messenger – mesenja
metre – mitr
midday – emini
middle – pagati
mile – mayil
milk (n) – melek
milk (v) – senga
millet – mabela
million – milyoni
millipede – shongololo
mind (v) – basopa
mine, my – gamina
mine (surface) – mayin
mine (underground) – mgodi
minister – umfundisi (pl.
 bafundisi)
minute (time) – miniti
mirror – sibuko
mischief – inkatazo
mislead – kohlisa
miss (v) – posa
missionary – umfundisi
mist – nkungu
mistake (n) – mistek, mastek
mistaken – posisile
mix – hlanganisa, dibanisa, taka
model (n) – mfanekiso
moist – swakeme
moisten – swakamisa
moisture – mswakama
mole – vukuzi
Monday – Mandeyi
money – mali
monkey nuts – (see
 “peanuts”)
month – nyanga
month (next) – nyanga ezayo;
 lo nyanga yena figa
month (last) – lo nyanga yena
 file; lo nyanga yena pelile
monthly – ngenyanga
moon – nyanga

moonrise – pumanyanga
more – futi
morning – ekuseni, kusasa
mortar – daga
mortuary – motshiri; ndlu ga
 sidumbu
mosquito – nsune
moth – nundu
mother – mame (pl. omame),
 mama
motor – moto
motor car – motokali
motor cycle – stututut
mountain – ntaba
mouse – impuku, gundwan
moustache – mdevu, devu
mouth – mlomo
move – susa
moving – yena hamba
mud – daga
much – maningi
much (so-) – kangaka
much (too-) – tumatch; maningi
 kakulu
mule – bongolo
muscle – msipa
music – musiki
multiply – andisa
must – funeka
mustn’t – musa
button – nyama ga lo-mvu
my – gamina
myself – mina

N

nail – spikiri
nail (of finger) – zipo
nail (v) – fasa nga lo spikiri
name (n) – gama
nature (origin) – mvelo
naughty – gangile
near – duze
nearly – ampur
neck – ntamo
needle – naliti
nerve – muzwa

nest – sidleke
neuralgia, neuritis – buhlungu
 ga muzwa
new – nyuwana
news – indaba
newspaper – nyuzipepa
next (position) – landela
next (time) – ezayo
nice – muhle, mnandi
night – busuku, ebusuku, nayit
nightdress – hembe ga lala
nightly – zonke busuku
nine – nayin
nineteen – nayintin
ninety – nayinti
no – hayikona, hayi
no! – cha!
noise – msindo
 (make) **noise** – rasa
none – aziko
nonsense – mahala, mfeketo;
 mbedo
noon – emini
nose – mpumlo
not – hayi, hayikona
note (letter) – ncwadi, brif
nothing – nikis, aziko, ize
nothing but – kupela
notice (n) – notisi, isaziso
November – Novemba
novice – nyuwana
now – manje
nowhere – aziko ndawo
number – namba, nombola
nurse (n) – nesi
nut – noti

of – ga
office – ofisi, hofisi
often – maningiskat
oh! – yoh!, hau!
oil – oil, mafuta
o.k. – lungile
old – madala, dala
on top – pezulu ku
once – munyeskat
one – wan, munye
onion – anyansi, nswele
only – kupela
open (v) – vula
opened – vuliwe
operate, operation – hlinza
or – nomina, mhlaumbe, noko
orange – olintsh
orphan – ntandane
orphanage – ndlu ga-ntandane
ostrich – intshe
other – lomunye
oven – hovini
overcoat – yas
our, ours – gatina
out – pandle
outside – pandle, ngapandle
outspan (v) – kulula
over – pezulu
overalls – overolo
overcome – hlula
overseas – pesheyana (ga lwandle)
overtake – dlula
overtime – hova
overturned – bukukekile
owe – kweleta
owl – wuwu, sikova
ox – nkabi
oxygen – oksijin

O

oath – sifungu
oats – folitsh, habile
obey – lalela
obstinate – kona nkani
obtain – tola
ocean – lwandle
October – Okitoba
odour – amaka, punga

P

pacify – tulisa
pail – bakete
pain – buhlungu, ihlabu
pain (acute) – buhlungu stelek
paint (v) – penta
paint (n) – pende

pal – wetu
pamphlet – ncwadi
pan – pan
pantry – pandolo
papaya, pawpaw – popo
paper – pepa
park (v) – emisa, yimisa, jamisa
parade – dresa
paraffin – parafin
parent – mzali (pl. mazali)
parry – vika
part (v) – ahluka (nisa)
pass (n) – pas
pass (by, over) – dlula
passage – pesej
patch – petch
pay (v) – batala; koka mali
peace – kutula
peach – pitsh
peanuts – ntongomane
peas – pizi
pedal (a bike) (v) – nyatela
pedestrian – mhambi-ganyawo
pen (writing) – pen
pencil – pensel
peninsula – ingalo
penis – mtondo
people – bantu
pepper – pelepele
perfume – amaka
perhaps – mhlaumbe
peril – ingozi
permission – lo vumelo
permit (v) – vumela
permit (n) – pemet, pas
perspiration – mjuluko
perspire – juluka
petrol – petrol
phooey – po
photograph – foto, mfanekiso
 sitombe
piano – piyano
piccanin – pikinan
pick (n) – piki
pick out – keta
picture – mfanekiso
pie – pai
piece – pisi
piecework – stokwe

pig – ngulube
pigeon – juba
pillow – pilo
pin – pin, speleti
pinafore – pinifo, fasikoti
pipe – payip, peyp; tumbu
pipe (tobacco) – payip ga bema
pineapple – payinapu
piston – piston; mtondo ga lo
 moto
place (n) – ndawo
place (v) – bega, faga
plan – plen
plank – plank, pulangwe
plant (v) – tshala, lima
plant (n) – planti
plate – pleiyit
platform – platfom
play (v) – dlala
pleasant – mnandi
please (v) – jabulisa
please (request) – yabolisa, golisa
pleasure – ntando
plenty – maningi
pliers – playas
plough (v) – lima
plough (n) – geja, plughu
plug – plag
pneumatic drill – madumelan
pocket (n) – paket, paketini,
 skwam(u)
poet – mbongi
point (v) – komba
points (rail) – pontsh
poison – poyizen, ubuti
poisonous – buhlungu
pole – pal, sibonda
police – poyisa, mapolisa
police station – poyisa steshi
police van – pikap
police whistle (n) – mfingwan
 ga poyisa
poliomyelitis – polio
polish (n) – polish
polish (v) – polisha
poor – mpofu; aziko mali
porridge – palitshi, putu
portrait – mfanekiso
position – ndawo

poster – posta
post – pos
post office – pos hofisi
pot – poti, mbiza
potato – zamban, mazamban
pound (n) – pauwund
pound (for animals) – skiti
pour – tela; gala
pour into – galela
pour out, pour away – cita
pour water – tela manzi
powder – pawuda
pray – tandaza
prayer – lo-mtandazo
prefer – keta
pregnant – miti
present (n) – basela
present (is here) – kona lapa
presently – mbaimbai
press (print, squeeze) – cindezela,
 nyanzela
pressure, power – stim
pretty – muhle
price – mali; malini? biza? bizwa
prison – jeyil, stokis
proboscis – mboko
promise – tembisa
prostitute – sifebe
protect – vikela, vimba, vimbela
puff adder – ibululu, inyoka
pull (v) – donsa
pulley (wheel) – puli (wil)
pulse – gazi shaya lapa lo mtambo
pump (n) – pompi
pump (v) – pompa
pumpkin – tanga
punch (tool) – pontshi
puncture – pontsha
punctured – pontshiwe,
 pontshere
punish – beta
punished – botshwa
purple – inkakala
push – shova
put – bega
put in (v) – faga

Q

qualified – fundile
quarrel, argue – pikisa
quarry – kwari
quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) – kota
quarters (living) – kaia
quench – cima
queen – nkosikas makulu
question (v) – pikisa, buza
question (n) – mbuzo, ndaba
queue (v) – dresa
queue (n) – dresi
quibble – pika
quickly (be quick) – tshetsha
quiet – tulile
quiet! – tula!
quiet! (emphatic) – tulabo!
quiet! (please) – tulake!

R

race (v) – jaha
race (competing) (n) – mjaho
race (people) – izwe, mhlobo
radio – wayiles, wailisi
radish – redishi
rail (track) – sporo
railway – stimela, lolive
rain (n) – mvula, kumkum,
 kamkam
rain (v) – neta
rainbow – tingo-ga-nkosikas
raise (v) – pakamisa
rand (money) – ranti
rascal – skelem
rat – gundwan
raw – hayi vutiwe
razor – reyza; mtshina ga sheva
read (v) – funda
ready – lungile manje
reap – vuna
rear light – lampu ga lo-msila
receipt – risiti
recieve – tola
recover (health) – pila

recuperate – pila
recuperated – betele
rectify – lungisa
red – bomvu
red light (or reflector) – stoplayit
referee – referi
refuse (v) – hayi vuma; ala
refuse (n) – doti, mampara
regulation(s) – mteto
region – lizwe, ndawo
rejoice – jabula
relation, relative – mhloblo
relax – tambisa, yeka
release (v) – yeka, kumula
religion – bukolwa
remain (behind) – sala, hlala
remember – kumbula
remind – kumbulisa
remove (v) – susa
renew – vusa futi; qalisa futi
repair – lungisa
repeat (action) – enza futi; pinda
repeat (words) – kuluma futi
reply (v) – sabela, pendula
reply (n) – lo-mpendulo
report (v) – mangala, ripota, bika
reptile – nunu, silwane
require – funa
resemble – fana na
respect – hlonipa
rest – pumula
return – buya
reverse (v) – pendula
revolver – volovolo
rib – mbambo
ride – gibela; kwela ku
riem – ntambo
rifle (n) – sibamu, mbumbulu
right (to be, or do) – lunga
right (in order) – lungile
right hand – sandla sokudla
right (side) – rayitsayid; kunene;
 lo sayid ga lo nene
rigid – lukuni
ring (n) – ringi
ring (v) – shaya lo klok
rinse – tyula
rip (v) – dabula
ripe – vutiwe

ripen – vutwa
rise (n) – pakama; sukuma
river – mfula
river imp – tikolosh, tokolosh
rivet – rivit
rinse – hlambulula
road – ndlela, mgwagwa
roar – duma
roast (v) – osa
rob – tshontsha
robber – lo-mtshontshi
robot – staplayit
rock – litshe (pl. matshe)
roll up – songa
roof – pezulu; pahla
rooster – qude
root – mpande
rope – makulu igoda
rot (v) – bola
rotten – bolile
rub (with hands) – hlikihla
rubber (n) – raba
rubbish – doti, rabish
rugby – ragbi
rule (v) – busa
rule (foot) – rula
rules – mteto
rumble – duma
run (v) – gjima
run away – baleka

S

sack (n) – saka
sad – lusizi
saddle (n) – sadele,, sihlalo, sal
safe – sindile
safety – vimbelo-ngozi
safety device – fokis
safety hat – makalapa
sailor – matilose
salary – holo, mali
sale – mandala
saliva – mate
salt – sawuti
sample – sampul
sand – santi, mhlabati

sandwich – semwhish
sandal – skatula
Satan – Satan
Saturday – Setedeyi
sausage – sositshi
save – sinda, sindisa
saviour – umsindisi
saw (v) – sagha
saw (tool) (n) – sagha
say – kulumwa, uti
scales – skali
scent – amaka, punga
school – skul, skolo
scissors – skere, skele
scotch cart – skotshka
scorpion – fezela
scratch (v) – kweba
scream – kala
screw (n) – sikrufu, skruf
screwdriver – sikrufudraiva
scum – mengulo
sea – lwandle
seam – mpeto
seat – sihlalo, stul
secret – mfihlo
secure – qinile
see – bona
seed – mbewu
seek – funa
seem – bonakala, kungati
segregate – ahlukanisa, keta
seize – bamba
select (v) – keta
sell – tengisa
send – tuma
separate (v) – hlukanisa
September – Sebutemba
septic – bolile
serpent – nyoka
servant – msebenzi
set (sink) – shona
set up – imisa, yimisa
settle (v) – pelisa
settle (dispute) – gweba
seven – seven, sikombisa
seventeen – seventin
seventy – seventi
sew, mend – tunga
shackle – shekel

shade – mtunzi
shaft – shafu
shake – shukuma
shadow – mtunzi
shake (cause to) – shukumisa
shall – zo
sharp – bukali
sharpen – lola
shave (v) – shefa, gunda
she – yena, yenakazi
shed (n) – stolo
sheep – mvu (pl. zimvu); klabu; gusha
sheet – shiti
shelf – shalof
shelter (n) – mzi
shepherd – umalusi
shield (v) – vimbela
shield (n) – into ga vimbela
shift (move) – susa
shift (working) – shif
shine (n) – kanya
shine (v) – kanyisa
ship – stimela ga lo manzi, mkumbi
shirt – hembe
shiver – tutumela
shock – shoko
shoe – skatula
shoot (v) – dubula
shop (n) – venkile
short – fushane, fishan, shot
shorts (pants) – kapudula; fishan bruk
shotgun – sibamu, mbobo
shout – memeza, dazuluka, duma
shovel (n) – foshol
shovel (v) – layisha
show (v) – bonisa, kombisa
shunt – shendela
shut (v) – vala
shut up! – tula!
shrink – figa pikanin; shwabana
sick – gula
sickle – sikele
sidewalk – ndlela ganyawo
side (on this-) – nganeno
sieve (n) – sefu
sift – seva

silence! (emphatic) – tulabo!
silence! (please) – tulake!
silencer – into yena tulisa
silver – silva
silver coins – mhlope mali
similar, alike – fana na
sin (n) – sono
sin (v) – enza sono
sing – hlabela, hlabelela
sink (v) – shona
sir – nkos
sister – sistela, dade, dadewetu
sit – hlala
six – sikis, situpa
sixteen – sikistin
sixty – sikisti
sjambok – mvubu
skin (v) – hlinza
skin (n) – skumba
skip (n) – skip
skokiaan – skokian
sky – zulu, lozulu
slacken – yekelela
slaughter (animals) – hlabu
sleep – lala
 sleeper (railway) – slipisi
sleepy – funa lala
slow – gantsani, gahle
slow (very) – gantsani kakulu
small – pikanin
smallpox – ngakaka
smash (v) – bulala
smash (n) – smesh, ngozi
smell (n) – nuka, amaka, punga
smile – mamatheka
smoke (n) – musi, ntutu
smoke tobacco, take snuff –
 bema
snake – nyoka
sneeze – timula
snow (v) – kitika, kapoko
snuff (n) – gwayi
so much – kangaka
soak (v) – netisa
soap – sepu, sipu, tsepu
sober – hayi dagiwe
soccer – futbol
socks – sokis ganyawo
soft – tambile

soften – tambisa
soil (n) – mhlaba
soldier – soldati
some – munye
somebody – munye mutu
someday – munye langa
something – uto; munye into
sometime – munyeskat
somewhere – munye ndawo
song – gama, hubo
soon – manjemanje
soot – mula
sore – buhlungu
sore (n) – silondo
sorrow (n) – sizi
sorrowful – dabukile
sorry – sori
sort out, select – keta
soul – moya, mpefumulo, tunzi,
 hliziyi, idlozi
sound (n) – msindo
sorghum, millet – mabela
soup – sobo, sopo
South – Sauwt, Ningizimu
spanner – spanela
spare part – sipere, munye pisi
spark – nhlansi
speak – kuluma
special pass – speshel
speed, velocity – tshetshaskati
spend – kipa mali
spider – lembu, cabu
spinach – spinish
spine – mhlandla
spirit – moya, tunzi, hliziyi
spirits – spiriti
spit (v) – pimisa; pumisa mate,
 kafula
spittle – mate
splice – tunga
splint (n) – plank
spoon – spun, lip'l
spoor – mkondo
sport – imidlalo
spot (place) (n) – ndawo
sprag – sprag
spring (n) – springi
Spring – Ntlokolahlaza
square – skwele

squeak – kala
squeeze – kama cinezela
squeeze out – kama
stable (n) – stebel
stalk (n) – stik
stand (v) – yima
stand (cause to) – yimisa
stand up – sukuma, pakama
stairs – stes
stamp (postage) – sitampu
star – kanyezi
start – qala
station (n) – steshi
stay (v) – hlala, sala
steal – tshontsha
steel – ntsimbi, nsimbi
stench – ufuta
stick (n) – duku
stiff – lukuni
still(ed) – tulile
sting (v) – luma
stink – nuka; punga mubi
stomach – sisu
stone (n) – litshe (pl. matshe)
stop (end) – pela
stop (stay) – yima, jama
stop (v) – imisa
stopper – sivalo; lo valo; propi
store (n) – stolo
storm – sipepo
story – mlando
stove – stofu
straight – streyit
stranger – umfokazi
stray (v) – duka
strayed – dukile
street – stalidi, istrata
strength – mandla
stretch – nweba
stretcher – stretsha
strike – beta, shaya
string – ntambo
stroll – fagash
strong – stelek; kona mandla
stupid – spukupuk, situta
subdue – dambisa
submerge – tshona
subside – damba
subtract – susa

suck – munca, anya
suckle – ncela, ncelisa, anya
sudden – zumayo
sugar – shuga, shukela
suggest – kabangisa
Summer – Ihlobo
sump – sampu
sun – langa
Sunday – Sandeyi, Sonto
sunrise – pumalanga
sunset – shonalanga
supervisor – fokisi
supper – dina, sapa
suppose – kabanga
surely – nyanis
surpass – dlula
surprise (v) – mangalisa, zuma
surveyor – saveya, mkopoli
swallow (v) – ginya
swear – funga, tuka
sweat (v) – juluka
sweat (n) – mjuduko
sweep (v) – shanyela
sweet (adj) – mnandi
sweets (n) – switi, svits
swell (v) – dumba
swim – hlamba
switch (elec) – switsh
switch (rail) – pontsh
swollen – dumbile
syringe – sirinji

T

table – taful
tablecloth – tafulduk
take – tata
tail (n) – msila
tail light – lampu ga lo-msila
tailor – mtungi
take – tata, bamba
take in – ngenisa
take care – basopa
take out – pumisa, kipa
take this! – ina!
talk – kuluma
tall – mde, mude

tame (v) – tambisa	this – diswan
tamed – tambile	thong – ntambo
tank – tenk	thoroughly – mpela, stelek
task – msebenzi, stokwe	thorn – iva
taste (v) – nambita	though – kodwa
taxi – teksi	thought (n) – mkabango
tea – ti, tiyi, tiye	thousand – tausend; kalungwan
teach – fundisa, kombisa	thousand-legs – shongololo
teacher – tisha; unfundisi (pl.	threaten – sabisa
bafundisi)	three – tri, matatu
team – span, genge	thrice – matatuskat
teapot – tipoti	throat – minzo, mpimbo
tear, rip (v) – dabula	through – pagati
tears (weeping) – nyembezi	throw – ponsa, posa
tease – tikameza, kataza	thumb – situpa
teaspoon – tispun	thunder – duma, duduma
teat, udder – mbele	Thursday – Tersdeyi
telephone – telefomo	tick (insect) – kaza, kazane
telephone (v) – shaya lo telefomo	tickle – kitakita
tell – tshela	tiger – ingwe
tell tales – mangala	timber – timba
ten – ten, shumi	time – skati
tennis – tenis	time (clock) – skati ka
tepid – dikidiki; tshisa mbitshan	tin – tini
terrify – sabisa; nunusa	tire (v) – dina, dinisa
test (v) – linga	tired – diniwe, katele
textbook – buk ga lo fundisa	to – lapa
thank, thanks – bonga, danke	toad – selesele
that (person or thing) – yena	tobacco – gwayi
that (conjunction) – ukuba, ukuti,	today – namhla, namuhla
kona	toe – swane
their, theirs – gayenazonke	toenail – zipo
them – yenazonke	together – kanyekanye
then (at that time) – galesoskati	tomorrow – ngomso
there – lapa	tomorrow morning – kusasa
there! (indicating) – nanku!,	tonight – ebusuku; namhla
nantsi!	busuku
they – yenazonke	tongue – limi
thief – sela; muntu yena	too (also) – futi
tshontsha; mtshontshi (pl.	tooth – zinyo
batshontshi)	torch – totsh
thigh – tanga	tortoise – fudu
thin, malnourished – zacile	touch (v) – pata, tinta
thing – into, yinto	tough – lukuni
think – kabanga	tour (v) – hamba izwe
thirst (v) – oma	towel – tawul
thirsty – funa puza	town – dolop, tauwin
thirteen – tetin	track (path) – ndlela ganyawo
thirty – teti	track (rail) – sporo

tractor – treka; ganda-ganda
trailer – msila
train (railway) – stimela treyin
train (v) – fundisa
transfer (v) – tshintsha
trap (v) – tiya
trap, snare (n) – lo tiyo
travel (v) – hamba izwe
tread on (v) – nyatela
tree – umuti, mti
tremble – tutumela
trench – mgero
trial (by law) – cala
tribal dance – shongololo
tribe – mhlobo
trot (horse) – quqa
troublesome – katazile
trousers – brukwe
truck (n) – troko
true – nyanis, qinisile
true (emphatically) – nyanis mpela
truth – nyaniso
truth (the whole) – nyanis kupela
try (by law) – teta
try (attempt) – linga
tube – tumbu
tuberculosis – tebekelosis
Tuesday – Tiusdeyi
tune – ivumo
tunnel – tonel
turkey – kalukuni
turn (v) – pendula, penduka, jiga
tusk – zinyo ga lo-ndlovu
twelve – twelof
twenty – twenti
twice – mabiliskat
two – tu, mabili

U

udder – mbele
ugly – mubi, bubi
uncle – malume
uniform – yunifom
umbrella – sambulela
underground – pansi, mgodini
understand – qonda

undo – kumula
unite – hlangana
unload – etula, kipa
until – kude
unwell – gula
untie – kumula, kulula
unwilling – ala, hayi vuma
up – pezulu
upset – wisa
urinate – tunda, shobinga, cama
urine – lo tundo, lo-mshobingo
us – tina
use (v) – sebenzisa; sebenza nga

V

valve – velv
vein – mtambo ga lo bluwan gazi
veld – indle, sikota
venison – nyamazan, nyamakazi
vermin – silwanyana
very – stelek, kakulu, mpela
vest – vest; sokis ga lo-mzimba
vex – kataza, hlupa
vicinity – duze
vigour – sibindi
violet (adj) – inkakala
visible – bonakile
visit (v) – fagash, vakasha
vitamin – vitamini
voice – izwi
volunteer – volontiya, skomdere
vomit – hlanza

W

wade – dada
wage – holo, mali
wagon – ngola, wegon
wagtail (bird) – mvemve
wait for – linda
wake (vt) – vusa
wake up (vi) – vuka
walk (v) – hamba
walk (stroll) – hamba fagash

wall – wol
want – funa
warm – tshisa-mbitshan
warn, alarm – basopisa
wash (v) – geza, washa
washgirl – washgel
washrag – faduk
waste (v) – mosha
waste material – mampara
watch (v) – buka, basopa
watch (n) – watsh
water (n) – manzi
water (v) – nisela, tela
water animals – puzisa
water hose – tumbu ga lo
 manzi
way – ndlela
we – tina
weak – hayikona stim
wealthy – notile
wear – faga
weary – diniwe
weather – moya, zulu
wedding – mshado
wedge – wej
Wednesday – Wensdeyi
weeds – ukula
week – wik, sonto
weep – lila
weigh – skala; faga skala
weight, mass – skali, sindo,
 nzima
well (better) – pilile
well (be) – pila
well (properly or thoroughly) –
 muhle
West – Shonalanga
wet – kona manzi
what – ini
what is? – ini? yini?
what is it? – yintoni?
what's the matter? –
 yinindaba?
what thing is this? – yintoni?
what do you want? – (u)funani?
wheat – kolweni
wheel (n) – vil, wil, sondo
wheelbarrow – wilibero
when – loskati, uma

when? – ipiskati?
where – upi
where? – upi? ipi?
which – ini
which? – yini?
whip (n) – swepu
whiskers – silevu
whistle (n) – mpempe, mfingwan
whistle (v) – shaya mpempe;
 shaya lo-mfingwan
white – mhlope
White (person) – Mlungu
White People – Abelungu
whiz (as bullet) – tshwi
who, whom – yena
who? whom? – ubani
who is? what is? – bani?
why? – yinindaba?
wick – ntambo ga lo layit
wide – banzi
wife – mfazi (pl. bafazi)
wild – sendle; hayi tambile
will, shall (v) – zo; azi
win – hlula
wind (n) – moya
wine – wayin
windmill – windmil; mashin ga
 lo moya
window – festele
windscreen wiper – into yena
 sula lo glas
wing (n) – piko
Winter – Busika
wipe – sula
wire – waia, cingo
wire (elec) – waia ga lo ges
wireless – wailisi
wire mesh – sefdrat
wisdom – hlakanipa
wise, clever – hlakanipile
wish – fisa; funa
witchdoctor (diviner) –
 insangoma; inyanga
with – na
within – pagati ku
without (outside) – ngapandle
witness (v) – bona
witness (n) – bone; fakaz
woman – mfazi (pl. bafazi)

woo – shela
wood – nkuni
wood (forest) – hlati
word – izwi
work (v) – sebenza
work (n) – msebenzi
work (knock off) – shayisa
work (finished) – shayile
world, earth – mhlabo
worm (n) – msundu
worms (parasitic) – izilo
worry (v) – kataza
wound (v) – limaza
wound (n) – inxeba
wounded – limele
wrap up – songa
wring – kama
wrist – sihlakala
write – bala, loba
writer – mbali
wrong – hayikona lungile

X

Xhosa – Xosa, Xhosa
xylophone – zimbila, zimbira,
 mbira

Y

yawn (and stretch) – zamula
year – lo nyaka
yeast – yisti
yellow – mpofu
yelp – konkota
yes – ya, yebo, ehe, ewe
yesterday – izolo
yet – manje
yoke (v) – bopela
yonder – lapaya
you (singular) – wena
you (plural) – nina, wenazonke
you (emphatic) – webo
young – ncane, ntsha, pikanin
youngster – mfan
your, yours – gawena
your, yours (pl) – ganina,
 gawenazonke

Z

Zulu – Zulu
Zulu people – Amazulu
Zulu person – Mzulu
Zululand – Kwazulu, Kwama-
 zulu

33 Fanagalo – English Dictionary

Note: As the irregular plurals of certain Fanagalo nouns have already been given in the English-Fanagalo section of the dictionary, they are – with one or two exceptions – not repeated here.

A

- Abantsundu** – Bantu (literally “Brown People”)
Abelungu – White People
Agosi – August
ahluka – divide; part or differ from
ahlukanisa – divorce, segregate, separate
aka – build, make, erect
ala – decline (refuse); be unwilling
alakoli – alcohol
alusá (v) – herd, tend, watch
amaka – perfume, odour
amalayita – hooligans, gangs
amanga – lies, fabrications
amazolo – dew
Amazulu – Zulu people, tribe or nation
ambulens – ambulance
ampur – almost
anda – increase, expand, extend
andisa – multiply; exaggerate
andiva – deaf
anga – kiss (v)
anya – suck
anyansi – onion
anyisa – suckle, nurse
apele, apul – apple
atsh! – exclamation of disapproval.
au! – exclamation of wonderment
ayi, hayi – no, not
auwa – hour
ayina – iron (v)
ayis – ice
azi – know; can; will, shall, able
aziko – none, nothing

B

- baba** – father
babankulu – grandfather
babaton – barberton (strong, illicit brew)
babayo – bitter
babili – both
baf – bath (n)
bafan – boys
bafazi – wives, women
baibel – bible
baimbai – (see **mbaimbai**)
baisikil – bicycle
baitsh – jacket, coat
bakela – fist
bakete – bucket, pail
bala – count, reckon, calculate, mark, write
bala setifiket – certify
baleka – run, flee
balekisa – chase away
bamba – catch; hold; arrest; seize, grasp
bambana – embrace
banan(a) – banana
bande, banti – belt, strap, band
bande ga lo-ngalo – armband, bangle
bandit – convict (n)
bangi – bank (commercial)
bani? – who is? what is?
banjwa, boshwa – prisoner, convict
banoyi – aeroplane
banzi – wide, broad
Bantu – Bantu
bantu – people, persons

- bantwana** – children
bas, basi – boss, master
basa – kindle (light), fire
basebenzi – workmen
basela – gift, bonsella, present
basboy – bossboy
basi, bas – bus
baskete – basket
basopa – guard, take care
basopa! – look out!
basopisa – alarm, warn
batala – pay (v)
batata – sweet potato
Bayete! – Hail! (to chief or king)
bayiskopu – bioscope, cinema
baza – carve (v)
bebi – baby
bega – put, place (on), set, lay
bej – badge, medal
bejane – rhinoceros
bekelana – gamble
bele – kafircorn
bema – smoke (v), take snuff
bendej – bandage
bering – bushing
bero, bele – bale (n)
beta (v) – beat, strike, punish,
 hit, assault
beteri – battery
bi – ugly, bad, evil (see also **mubi**)
bibi – mongoose, meercat
bika – announce, report (v)
bila – is boiling (vi), fermenting
bilisa – boil (vt)
bima – measure (v)
binda – choke (v)
bitilude – beetroot
bitshanisa – decrease, lessen
biza – call, summon, ask for
bizi – busy
blukwe – (see **brukwe**)
bluwan – blue
bobo – hole
bobojan (spanela) – pipe
 wrench, monkey wrench
bodi – board (n), blackboard
bodla – belch
bodlela – bottle (n)
bokis, bokisi – box (n)
- boko, mboko** – trunk,
 proboscis, chimney top
bola – rot, decompose
boleka – borrow; lend
bolile – rotten, septic, putrid
bomvu – red
bona – see, percieve, behold
bonakile – visible
bonas – bonus
bondela – bundle (n)
bongile – thankful
bonisa – show, point out
bonga – thank, thanks; praise; roar
bonela – burner
bonisana – consult
bongolo – donkey, mule
bontshis – beans
bopa – bind, tie, fasten
bopela (v) – inspan, yoke,
 saddle, harness
bora – bore
bosha – defecate
boshi – latrine, toilet, W.C.
botela – butter
Botswana – Botswana
brek, breyik – brake (n)
brendi – brandy
brif – letter; written note
bruda – brother
brukwe – trousers
bubesi – lion
bubi – (see **mubi**)
budala – age
bude – lenth
bude pezulu – height
buhlalu – beads
buhlungu – sore, hurt, injured,
 poisonous, pain
buhlungu ga muzwa –
 neuralgia, neuritis
buk – book (n)
buka – look at, watch; admire;
 take care of
bukali – sharp
bukolwa – religion
bukukekile – overturned
bulala – break, kill
bulalayo – deadly
bulaleka – be injured, exhausted

bulughwe – bridge (n)
bululu – (see **bruda**)
buna – wither, fade, wilt, droop
bundu – bush country
bunga – meet in council
bungane – beetle
busa – govern
busha, butsha – butcher (n)
Busika – Winter
busisa – bless
buso – face (n)
busuku – night
buta – collect, congregate, come together
butela – bring together, gather
butundu – blunt
buya – return, come back, go back
buyisa – bring back; send back; restore, repay
buza – question, interrogate, examine, investigate, enquire, ask
Bwana – Master (in South-East Africa)

C

cabanga – (see **kabanga**)
cabu – spider
cala – trial (by law); guilt
cama – urinate
cela – beg
cha! – no! certainly not!
cima – extinguish, quench
cinezela, kama – squeeze; print, press; oppress
cingo – (see **waia**)
cita – pour out, pour away
cobela – charge up (for blasting)

D

dabuka – burst, give way; part; hive off, crack
dabuka – sorrow, be grieved
dabukile – sorrowful

dabula – tear, rip
dada – wade, float
dade – sister
dademina – my sister
dadewena – your sister
dadewobaba – aunt (paternal)
daga – mud, mortar, dirt
dagiwe – drunk, intoxicated
dala (adj) – old, aged
dala (v) – create, originate, make
dam – dam (n)
damba – subside (river, swelling, emotions)
dambisa (v) – subdue, calm
danke – thanks, thank you
dans – dance (n)
dansa – dance (v)
dayimani – diamond
dazuluka (v) – shout, scream
debe – lip
deka – lay table
deksel – lid
delef (n) – drift, ford
deri – dairy
desiki – desk
devu – moustache
dibanisa – mix, join, collect
dikidiki – lukewarm, tepid
dina – dinner
dina, dinisa – tire, be irksome
diniwe – tired
Disemba – December
diswan – this
diza – fly (v)
dlabantu – cannibal
dlala (v) – play, sport, joke
dlala nga bakela – boxing
dlalisa – amuse
dlova – spoil, make havoc
dlula – pass (by, over), overtake; surpass, excel
dlulamiti – giraffe
dlulayo – better (in health)
doba (v) – fish, angle
dokotela – doctor (n)
dolo – knee
dolop – town
donga – donga; embankment; ravine

donki – donkey
donsa – pull, haul
dopi – detonator
doti – dirty; rubbish
draiva – driver
dres – dress, frock
dresa – parade
dresi – queue
drom – drum (machinery)
dubula – shoot, fire (v), bang
duduma – thunder, rumble, explosion
duduza – console, comfort
duka (v) – stray; wander off and get lost; disappear
dukile – strayed
dukisa – bewilder; conceal
duk – cloth, handkerchief
dku – stick, club, knobkerrie
duma – thunder, roar, shout
dumba – swell (v)
dumbu – carcass
dumbile – swollen
dumela – become famous
dumela! – greetings!
dumisa – praise, extol
dura, dula – dear (in price)
duze – close to, near; vicinity
duze ku – beside
dweba – draw a line, make a drawing

E

ebusuku – (at) night
egzos (payip) – exhaust (pipe)
ehe – yes
ehla – climb down, descend
ekis – egg(s)
ekuseni – morning, a.m.
ema – halt
emini – midday, noon
emisa – park (v)
emti – empty
emva, muva – behind; after; backwards
ena, yena – he, she, it

enana – exchange (v)
enyanya – hate, dislike, be nauseated by
enza – make, do, perform
enza doti – mess (v)
enza futi – continue
eplon – apron
Epril – April
esid – acid
etula – unload
evelopu – envelope
ewe – yes
eyit – eight
ezayo – next (in time)

F

Faduk – washrag, dishcloth
faga – put in (on, among)
faga – wear
faga moya – inflate
faga pagati – insert
faga skala – weigh
fagash – stroll, visit
faji – barrel, vat
fayil – file (n)
fakaz – witness (n)
fakaza – give evidence
fakazi – evidence
fam, palas – farm (n)
fana – alike
fana ga lo – like this
fana na – resemble
fanekisa (v) – liken
fanisa – imitate, copy
fasa – fasten, couple (v)
fayif – five
fazi – (see **mfazi**)
febe – prostitute
Febuvari – February
fektri – factory
fen – fan
fenbelt – fanbelt
festele – window
festele ga mehlo – goggles
festeyid – first-aid
festklas – first-class

fezela – scorpion
figa – come, arrive
figisa – bring, fetch
fihla – conceal, hide, bury
fihlile – hidden
file – dead, broken
filiji – mouth organ
filum – film
fisa – desire, covet, wish
fish – fish (n)
fishpleyit – fishplate
fita – fitter
fiti – feet (measure)
fiva – fever
fiyos – fuse (n)
flaimashin – aeroplane
flauwa – (see **fulawa**)
flenj – flange
fo – four
foda – fodder
folitsh – forage, oats
foloman – foreman
fokis – safety device; detective
fokisi – labour supervisor
fokis tsheyin – safety chain
foroko – fork
foshol – shovel, spade
frij – fridge
fudu – tortoise
fukamela – hatch eggs
fulawa – flower (n); flour
funa – want, seek, desire,
 search for, wish
funa lala – sleepy
funani? – what do you want?
funa puza – thirsty
funda – learn, read
fundayo – learner
fundile – learned, qualified
fundisa – teach, instruct; train
funeka – must
funga – swear by, invoke, take
 an oath
fushane, fishan – short, brief
fut – foot (12")
futa – inflate
futbol – soccer, football

futi – again, more, also, extra,
 often
fuya (v) – breed (stock); get in-
 terest; tame
fuyile – tame

G

ga – of
gaba, gabaza – brag be vain
gahle – gently, carefully, nicely,
 well, steadily
gala – pour
galatsh, garaj – garage
galela – pour (into, out)
galesoskati – then, at that time
galoni – gallon
gama – name, kind, sort; letter
 of alphabet
gama, gamu – song
gamina – my, mine
gana – marry, betroth
gancani – (see **gantsani**)
ganda-ganda – tractor
gangile – naughty
ganile – married
gantsani – slow
gangani! – how?
ganina – yours (pl)
ganlayit – cigarette lighter
ganyawo – on foot
gatina – our, ours
gaula, gawila – chop(v)
gawena – you, yours
gawenazonke – your(s) (pl)
gayena – his, hers, its
gayenazonke – theirs
gaya – grind (by hand), crush
gazi – blood
gaja – plough (n)
geje – hoe (n)
genge – gang
ges – electricity, current, power
geyij – gauge
geyit – gate
geza – wash (v)
geza lo-mzimba (v) – bath,
 shower

ghogho – gogga, insect, etc
gibela (v) – mount, climb, board, ride
gijima – run, running
ginipigi – guinea pig
ginya – swallow (v)
glas – glass
glas ga lo layit – globe (elec)
glav – glove
goba (v) – bend (down), bow, twist
gobile, gobekile – bent, crooked
goda – excavate, dig
gogo – thin, dried up person or thing
golide mali – gold
golisa – please
golof – golf
gufa, ukufa – death
gula – sick, ill; moan, groan
gulisa – make ill
gunda – shave, shear
gundwan – rat, mouse
guqa – kneel
guqisa – knee-halter (v)
gwala – coward
gwalela – lame
gwalile – full
gwalisa – fill
gwava – guava
gwayi – tobacco, snuff
gweba – give a ruling; judge, decide, convict
gwalile, gwele – full
gwinca – choke (v)

H

habile – oats
haf – half
hamba – go, walk, travel; depart
hamba bo! – go, man!
hamba gahle – goodbye
hamba izwe – tour, travel
hamba tata – fetch
hambile – left, gone

hambisa (v) – cause to go, send on; promote, circulate
hamela – hammer (n)
handel – handle
handed – hundred
hansi – goose
hara, hark – rake
hashi – horse
hau! – heavens!, goodness!
hayi – no, not
hayi! – oh!
hayibona – don't see
hayi dagiwe – sober
hayifuna – don't want
hayikona – no, don't, not
hayi kuluma – dumb
hayi tambile – wild
hayitanda – dislike (v)
hayi vuma – unwilling
hayiyazi – don't know; cannot
hembe – shirt
hembe ga lala – nightdress
hlaba – slaughter (stock); pierce, stab, prick; hurt feelings
hlabela, hlabela – sing
hlakanipa – smart, shrewd, clever, wise; skulful, bold, enterprising; far-seeing
hlakanipile – wise, clever, intelligent
hlagula (v) – hoe, harrow
hlala – sit, stay, dwell, live
hlalissa – settle, pacify
hlamba – swim, bathe
hlambulula – rinse
hlamvana – twig, leaf
hlamvu – bullet; coin; seed
hlane – desert (n)
hlangana – unite; meet, assemble, join; agree with
hlanganana – meet; copulate
hlanganisa – gather, count, add
hlanu – five
hlanya, hlanyile – mad
hlanza – vomit, cleanse, purify
hlati – forest
hlaya – joke (n)
hlebelia – sing

hlega – laugh
hlegisa – amuse
hlela – edit, arrange
hlikihla – massage (v)
hlinza – skin, flay; slaughter; surgical operation
hlinza – cheat, defraud
hlobo – type, kind
hломbe – shoulder
hloni – shame, modesty, bashfulness
hlonipa – respect (v)
hlula – win, conquer, overcome
hlupa – annoy, afflict, worry
hlupeka – experience hardship, trouble
hlupekile – afflicted
hola (v) – lead, pull along; draw wages
holej – haulage
holo – wages, salary
holo – hole (drilled in rock)
hotela – hotel
hova – overtime
hovini – oven
huba – sing
hubo – song, singing
hudo – diarrhoea
huk – hook
hulumende – government
hut – hat

I

i-asi – axle
ibululu – puff adder
ibuzi – field rat
ibele – udder, breast
idada – duck (n)
idla – eat
idlisa – feed (give food to)
ifa – die, expire
ifu – cloud
igoda – thick cord
Igoli,
Janasbek – Johannesburg
igwababa – crow (bird)

ihlaba – pain, hurt
Ihlobo – Summer
ijaji – judge (n)
ijuba – pigeon, dove (pl amajuba)
ikolwa – believer
iliso – eye (pl mehlo)
ilwa – fight, struggle, quarrel, contend
ima – (see **yima**)
imba – dig
imbabala – bushbuck
imbali (n) – flower, blossom
imbungulu – bedbug
imidlalo – sport
imisa, yimisa – erect, set up; stop
imiti – trees
impi – army, commando
impuku – mouse
impunzi – duiker
imvu – sheep
imvubu – hippopotamus
imvukazi – ewe
imvwana – lamb
ina! – take this!
incwadi – letter
indaba – affair, discussion; news, information
indle – veld
indumba – bean
induna – headman of kraal
ingalo (n) – arm; peninsula
ingelosi – angel
ingozi – accident, danger, misfortune
ingwe – leopard
ini – what, which
ini? – what is? which?
inja – dog
injakazi – bitch
injin – engine, loco
injiniya – engineer
ink pensil – ballpoint pen
inkakala – purple, violet
inkanyezi – firefly
inkatazo – mischief, annoyance
inkawu – monkey
inkosi nyosi – queen bee

inkosikas, inkosikazi – lady
insangu – Indian hemp, dagga
into – thing, article, object
intombazan(a) – little girl
intombi – (adolescent) girl, young woman, maiden, daughter
intliziyo – heart
intliziyo – life, soul; mood, mind, feeling, conscience; will, temperament
inshatshazi – blister
intwakumba – flea
intshe – ostrich
inyanga – witchdoctor (diviner)
inyati – buffalo; strong, forceful man
inxeba – wound (n)
ipi – where
ipi? upi? – where?
upiskati? – when? at what time?
isando (n) – hammer
isangoma – witchdoctor (diviner)
isaziso – notice (n), advertisement
isele – frog
isipo – gift
ispun – (see **lepel**)
istrata – street
istutwane – fit (epileptic)
iva – thorn
ivumo – tune
iwa – fall (v)
iwile – fallen, capsized
ixolo – tree bark
ize – nothing; something of no importance
izenze – flea
izilo – parasitic worms
izolo – yesterday
izwa – hear, feel
izwa lo kaluma – listen to
izwi – voice, word

J

jabula – rejoice; be happy, glad
jabulile – cheerful
jabulisa (v) – gladden, please

jadji – judge, magistrate
jag – jug
jalatin – gelatine, dynamite
jamisa – park (v)
Januwari – January
zek – jack (n)
zekhama – jackhammer
jeli – jelly
jele, trongo – jail
jem – jam
jesi – jersey
Jesu – Jesus
jeyil – prison
jiga – turn, turn round, rotate, turn a corner or bend
jiga-jiga – turn round and round
jigela – around
jimkrou – crowbar
jinga – swing (v)
jingisa – hang up
joloba – elastic
jova – inject, inoculate
jovela – gonorrhoea
joyina – labour contract
juba – dove, pigeon
jugujela – throw, fling
Julayi – July
juluka – sweat (v), perspire
Juni – June

K

kaba – kick (v)
kabayid – carbide, acetylene
kabanga – think, suppose, believe
kabangisa – suggest
kabete – cupboard
kade – long ago; long time
kafula – spit (v)
kahlela – kick (v)
kaia, kaya – home, hut, quarters, kraal
kakulu – very, much, greatly
kala – squeak, scream, cry, wail; complain
kalenda – calendar

kalik – lime
kalimba – thumb piano
kaloti – carrot
kalukuni – turkey
kalula – lightly, easily
kam – comb
kama – squeeze (out), wring
kambu – camp
kamela ga lala – bedroom
kanda – head (n)
kandlela – candle
kangaka – so much, this much; so great
kangela – look, look at, behold
kanjani? – how? in what manner?
 how's things? how goes it?
kantolo – court, office
kanya – give light; be bright; shine
kanyekanye – all together
kanyezi – star
kanyisa – brighten, lighten, illuminate; illustrate; polish
kapenta – carpenter
kapet – carpet
kaplin – coupling
kaplin huk – coupling hook
kapoko, kitika – snow
kasa – crawl
kashana – distant
kasta oil – castor oil
kataza – disturb, worry, tease
katazile – troublesome
katele – tired, exhausted
katesi – immediately, urgently
katsi – cat
katsikazi – mother cat
kaza, kazane – bushtick
kebul – cable
kedi – caddie
kefi – café
kekela – cackle
kemesi – chemist
keta (v) – select, grade, elect, choose, prefer, segregate
ketang – chain (n)
keteni – curtain
ketile – kettle
ki – key

kipa – take out, extract; unload
kishi – kitchen
Kisimus – (see **Krismus**)
kitar – guitar
kitakita – tickle
kitika (v) – snow
kiya – lock (v)
klaba – graze
klabisa – take animals to graze
klabish – cabbage
klok – bell
kodwa – but, though, however
kofi – coffee
kohla – forget; puzzle; embarrass
kohlakohla – cough (n)
hohlela – cough (v)
kohlisa – cheat, mislead, trick, delude, defraud, embarrass
kohlo(lapa-) – left (hand side)
koka mali – pay
kokela (v) – lead (oxen)
koko, kogo – ancestor, grand-parent
kola – satisfy, convince
kolisa – please (v); inspire confidence
kololo – collar
kolwa – believe; be satisfied, convinced
kolwa ga Krestu – Christianity
kolweni – wheat
komba – point (at, out); mark (v)
kombisa (v) – show, point out, teach, guide
komitshi – cup
komponi – compound (n)
komponi maneja – compound manager
kompos – compost
komputa – computer
kona cala – guilty
kona lapa – be present, here; is there
kona – is, am, be, exist; have; here, there
kona (conj) – because, so that
kona mpela – actual
kona kwata – be angry

konamanje – immediately, instantly
konela – corner
konkrit – concrete (n)
konkota – barking of dog
kontlati, kontrak – contract, agreement
konyane – calf (animal)
koros ga sporo – level crossing
kota – quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$)
koukou – cocoa
kozi – eagle
krikit – cricket
Krismus – Christmas (Box)
Krestu, Kristu – Christ
ku – at, to, from
kudala – long ago
kude – far (away); far from
kudla – food, forage
kukis – biscuits
kuku – fowl (domestic)
kukuba – because
kula – grow, grow up, increase, become big, accumulate
kulisa – cause to grow, exaggerate, accumulate
kulu – great, large, big
kulu kakulu – very great
kulula – outspan; untie; undress; deliver; set free
kuluma – speak, converse, tell
kumbula – remember, think of, keep in mind, recollect
kumbulisa – remind
kumbulo – memory, thought, idea
kumkum – rain (n)
kunene – right (hand side)
kunjani – (see **kanjani**)
kupela – only, solely, nothing but, alone
kuqala – first, firstly
kuqedini – lastly
kusasa – daybreak, dawn; tomorrow morning; early
kuseni – early (in the day)
kutula – peace
kwa – at; the place of

kwamatuna – cemetery, graveyard
kwapa – armpit
kwari – quarry
kwata – angry
kweba – scratch
kwela – board, climb, mount, ride
kwela – copulate (animals)
kweleta – owe
kwelisa – give a lift to
Kwindla – Autumn
Kwowu(k)!! – exclamation

L

lada – ladder
lahla – throw away; cast off; abandon; lose; lay down
lahlega – lose, stray, err; slip from mind; be confused
lahlegile – lost, bewildered
lahlegisa – lead astray; mislead
laia, laya – liar
laisens – licence
lala – sleep, rest, lie down
lalapansi – lie down
lalana – copulite
lalela – listen, hear, obey
lalisu – put to sleep; lay down
lamba – get (be) hungry
lambile – hungry
lamp, lampu – lamp, light
lamun, lamulo – lemon
landa – fetch; follow up; track
landela – follow, pursue; next
landelana – go in single file
langa – sun, sunshine; day, date
langwan – long
langwan bruk – longs; long trousers
lapa – at, here, there, to, in
lapi – rag, cloth
lapa kaya – at home
lapa kohlo – left side, on the left
lapa leftsayid – on the left
lapa rayitsayid – on the right

- lapasayid** – there
lapaya – yonder
lapi – cloth, rag
lati – late
Lau, Lawu – Hottentot (pl Ama-)
layin – line
layisha (v) – load, shovel, lash
layit – light
layita – hooligan (pl ama-)
layita (v) – light, illuminate,
 light up (charges)
leda, stepis – ladder
lele – asleep
lelesiwe – flat (adj)
lembu – spider
lepel – spoon
leta – bring
letisi – lettuce
level – level (n)
leven – eleven
leyit – late
libala – loiter, delay; go slow;
 idle, neglect
lif, lifu (ga vakasha) – leave (of
 absence)
lifi – lift, elevator
lifa – weep, wail, cry, mourn
lima – plough, plant, cultivate
limala – (get) hurt; be injured
limaza (v) – wound, harm
limbo ga tendela – spotted cloth
limele – wounded
limi – tongue, language
linda – wait; wait for; watch for
lindela – await
linga – try, attempt; test,
 examine; taste
lingana – balance (v)
linganisa – measure; level;
 weigh, balance; compare
litshe – rock, stone, pebble,
 boulder
lizwe – land, region, country
lo – the
loba – write
lobola – pay (cattle) for a wife
lola – sharpen, grind (axe)
lolive – railway, train, loco
- lomunye** – another, the other,
 any more
lomumtu – person
loskati – when, if, while
lori – lorry, truck
lova – loafer, malingerer, lazy;
 absentee (from work)
lovile – absent (from work)
luhlaza – green (adj), raw
lukuni – hard, stiff, tough, rigid;
 enduring; severe, hardhearted;
 difficult
lula – easy, light (in weight)
luleka – advise (v)
luleko – advice (n)
luma – bite, chew; sting, pain
lunga – do right; be right, good,
 suitable, fitting
lungile – all right, o.k., ready,
 correct, good, adequate
lungisa (v) – repair, fix, cor-
 rect, mend
lusene – lucerne
lusizi – sad
lwandle – sea, ocean
Lwesibili – Tuesday
Lwesihlanu – Friday
Lwesine – Thursday
Lwesitatu – Wednesday

M

- mabala** – colours
mabalan – clerk
mabili – two, pair
mabela – millet, sorghum
mablumas – bloomers
madala – old, aged (person)
madala kakula – ancient
madoda – men
madolo – knees; kneeguards,
 shinguards
madumelan – pneumatic drill,
 jackhammer
- mafestele** – goggles
mafufu – clouds

mafuta – fat, grease, oil
magugu – cockroaches
mahala – nonsense
mahewu – native beer
majistlet – magistrate
maka – mark (n)
makalapa – hard hat, safety hat, helmet
makaza – cold (adj)
makaza bokis – refrigerator
makhali – weapons, arms
makoba – chaff
makulu – big, great
makulu igoda – rope
malabalaba – aptitude test
malahlana – cinders
malahle – coal, embers, charcoal
malahle ga lo totsh – torch cells
mali – money, coin; value, price
malini? – how much (money)?
malume – uncle
mamatheka – smile
mamba – mamba (snake)
mame – mother
mame! – exclamation of wonder
mamekazi – maternal aunt
mamekulu – grandmother
mamela – listen
mampara – useless person; waste material
mandala – sale
mandla – strength, power, force, energy; authority
mane – four
manga – tell lies, fabricate
mangaki? – how many?
mangakiskat? – how often?
mangala – report; accuse; complain
mangalisa – astonish, surprise, startle
maningi – many, much
maningiskat – often
manje – now, yet, already
manjemanje – soon
mankalanyan ga lo ges – electric loco

manyoro – manure, fertiliser
manzi – water; wet, damp, moist
mapanga – empty trucks
mapapu – lungs
mapoyisa – police
masi – buttermilk, sour milk
Matsh – March
masende – testicles
mastek – mistake, error
mata – friend
matatu – three
mate – saliva, spittle, spit
matekini – jigger fleas
matilose – sailor
matras – mattress
matshe – stones
matshe ga lo zulu – hail
matumbu – bowels, entrails
matungulu – Natal plums
mavejetebel – vegetables
mawo! – wonderful!
mayil – mile
mayin – mine (n)
mazali – parents
mazamban(e) – potatoes
mazenze – fleas
mbaimbai – later on; afterwards
mbala – colour (n)
mbali – author, clerk, writer
mbali – accountant, computer
mbambo – rib
mbane – lightning
mbawul – methane gas, firedamp
mbazi – carpenter, wood-carver
mbede – bed (pl mabede)
mbewu – seed (pl mabewu)
mbele – udder, teat, breast (pl mabele)
mbiko – message, report
mbila – maize, mealies
mbira – thumb piano
mbira – dassie, rock-rabbit
mbitshan – few, not much
mbiza – pot
mbokwane – eel
mbongi – poet, eulogiser
mbongo – poem, lullaby
mbontshi – bean

- mbumbulu** – rifle (n)
mbuzi – goat
mbuzo – question (n) (pl mabuzo)
mdali – creator
Mdali – Creator
mde, mude – tall, long
mdevu – moustache
mdlali – player
mdlalo – game (play)
mdweshwana – medical dressing (pl madweshwana)
mehlo – eyes
melek – milk (n)
mema – invite, summon
memeza – shout, call out
memezela – proclaim, publish
meneja – manager
mengulo – scum
mesenja – messenger
metshs – matches
Meyi – May
mfan – boy, son, youth, servant (pl bafan)
mfanelo – duty
mfanekiso – portrait, picture; photo; copy; diagram; illustration; model, likeness
mfazi – wife, woman (pl bafazi)
mfeketo – nonsense, annoyance
mfihlo – secret (pl mafihlo)
mfingwan – whistle (n)
mfingwan ga poyisa – police whistle (n)
mfiva – fever, malaria
mfula – river (pl mafula)
mfundi – scholar, learner, reader (pl bafundi)
mgero – trench
mgibeli – horseman
mgodi, mgodini – excavation, shaft, hole, mine
mgodi ga manzi – water hole
mgwagwa – road
mgwebi – judge (n)
mgwebo – judgment, conviction
mhambi-ganyawo – walker, pedestrian
mhlaba – earth, world, land, country
mhlabati – sand, ground, soil
mhlandla – backbone
mhlane – back of body
mhlati – jaw
mhlaumbe – perhaps; or
mhleli – editor
mhlobo – tribe, race; friend, pal, relation; type, kind, colour, nationality
mhlope – white, clear, bright
mhlope mali – silver or nickel coins
mholi – leader, guide
mila – grow
milyoni – million
mina – me, I, myself
mini – noon, midday; daytime
miniti – minute (time)
minza – swallow, gulp down, drown
minzisa – drowned
minzo – throat (gullet)
misa – set up, erect, establish
misis – madam
misundu – worms
mita – become pregnant
miti – pregnant
mitisa – impregnate
mjaho – race (competing)
mjovo – injection, inoculation
mjuluko – sweat (n)
mkabango – thought (n)
mkaza – bushtick
mkokeli – leader, guide
mkondo – spoor, track
mkonto – assegai, spear, javelin, dart
mkopoli – surveyor
mkoti – bride
mkuhlane – cold, illness, catarrh, flu, fever
mkululi – deliverer
mkumbi – ship, boat
mkweli – rider
mlando – story, tale
mlilo – fire, flame (n)
mlenze – leg
mlomo – mouth, lips, beak; opening, entrance

mlotha – ash(es)
Mlungu – White (person) (pl
Abelungu)
mnandi – sweet, pleasant, nice,
fine, smooth, delicious; polite
mnyama – black, dark,
darkness
mnyamana – dark
mngibelo, Mnqibelo – Saturday
Modimo – God
molo! – good morning!
mosha (v) – waste, mess, dirty
moto – motor
moto ga lo ges – electric motor
motokali – motor car
moya – air, wind, breath, at-
mosphere, weather.
moya – spirit, ghost, soul
mpahla – clothes, baggage, lug-
gage; goods, stock, movable
property; furniture; tools,
apparatus
mpande – root
mpandla – bald
mpangele – guinea fowl
mpegi – cook (n)
mpela – thoroughly, very, en-
tirely, completely
mpempe – whistle (n)
mpendulo (n) – answer, reply
mpeto – seam, hem (n)
mpilo – health
mpimbo – throat
mpofu – eland
mpofu – yellow, amber, tawny;
poor
mpompi – pump (n)
mpondo (n) – pound (lb) horn
mpokane – fly (n)
mpumpute – blind (adj)
mpumlo – nose
mpunga – grey
mpungu – lung
mpupu – mealie meal
msebenzi (n) – work, job,
labour, task, trade, occupa-
tion, worker, servant
msele – groove, furrow, chan-
nel, trench

msele ga lo manzi – gutter
mshado – wedding
mshanyelo – broom
mshobingo – urine
mshongolo – tribal dance
msila – tail; trailer
msindo – noise, sound
msino – dance (n)
msipa – muscle
msizi – helper
msundu – worm
mswakama – moisture
mtagati – wizard, witch,
enchanter
mtambam – afternoon
mtambo – vein, pulse, artery,
bloodvessel
mtandazo – prayer
mtando – love (n)
mtelo – licence
mtengi – buyer
mteto – law, regulation(s)
mti, muti – tree
mtofu – lead (metal)
mtombo – fountain
mtondo – piston, penis
mtondo ga lo moto – piston
mtshini – machine
mtshini ga sheva – electric
razor
mtshontshi – thief
mtungi – tailor; sewing woman
mtunzi – shade, shadow
mtwalo – load (n)
mtwana – child
mubi – ugly, dirty; bad, evil
muhle – nice, pretty, well,
properly, good
muhle mpela, muhle stelek –
best
mula – soot
munca – suck
muntu – person, human being
muntu yena sebenza – labourer
munwe – finger (n)
munye – one, some
muynewan – one
muyne into – something
munye langa – someday

munye muntu – somebody
munye ndawo – somewhere
munyeskat – once, sometime
musa – mustn't, don't do, stop
 doing
musi – smoke (n)
muti – medicine, medicament
muva, emva – backwards, be-
 hind, after
muva ga dina – afternoon
muzwa – nerve
mvelo – nature, origin
mvemvane – butterfly
mvu – (see **imvu**)
mvemve – wagtail (bird)
mvubu – sjambok, hippopotamus
mvula – rain
mvulamanzi – rainwater
Mvulo – Monday
mvuno – harvest (n)
mvuto – forge, bellow
myeni – bridegroom
mzali – parent
mzi, muzi – abode, shelter,
 kraal
mzimba – body
mzondo – bedbug
Mzulu – Zulu person

N

na – and, with
na? – interrogative
naliti – needle (n)
namba – number
nambita – taste (v)
namhla – today
namhla busuku – tonight
namhla kusishwa – this
 evening
namhla mtambam – this
 afternoon
nandisa (v) – sweeten; make
 agreeable
nanku! nantsi – there! (in-
 dicating), here it is! here
 they are!

nayif – knife
nayin – nine
nayinti – ninety
nayintin – nineteen
nayit – night
nayit tshif – night shift
ncane – young
ncela – suck milk
ncelisa – suckle
ncwaba – bury (a corpse)
ncwabo – funeral; grave
ncwadi – letter, document,
 pamphlet
Ncwadi-ga-Tixo – Bible
ndaba – because
ndawo – place, spot, locality,
 position
ndawo ga puma – exit (n)
ndish – dish, bowl (n)
ndiza – fly (v)
ndlebe – ear
ndlela – road, way, footpath
ndlelana – narrow path
ndlela-ganyawo – track,
 sidewalk
ndlovu – elephant
ndlù – hut, house
ndlù – den, nest, web, hive
ndlù ga sidumbu – mortuary
ndlulamiti – giraffe
ndoda – husband, male, man (pl
 madoda)
ndolowane – elbow
nduku ga hamba – crutches
ndunduma – dump (n)
nene – gentleman, worthy man
nengozi – dangerous
nesi – nurse (n)
nesibindi – bold, brave, fearless
neta – raining, wetting
netisa – soak (v)
nga – by means of, through,
 with, by
nga-lo – by means of this (or that)
ngane – child, friend
nganeno – on this side
ngani? – by what means?
nganyawo – on foot
nga-pagati – between

- ngapandle** – without (outside)
ngapansi – beneath
ngapaya – beyond, yonder
ngcela – suck
ngena – enter, go in (to),
 penetrate
ngenisa – bring in, take in, in-
 sert, introduce
nge-nyango – per month
Ngisi – Englishman
nglazi – glass
ngolovan – cocopan, rail truck
ngoma – drum (musical)
ngoma – song, hymn, dance
ngomso – tomorrow
ngonyama – lion
ngozi – accident, danger
ngubo – blanket, garment
ngulube – pig, hog
ngwele, ngcwele – holy
ngwenya – crocodile; mine
 crusher(s)
ngwenyen – crushing station
nhlansi – spark
nhlanza – cream
niga – give, deliver, hand to,
 supply with
nigelo – gift, offering
nikis – none, nothing
nina – you (pl)
nisela – irrigate, water
njabulo – joy, pleasure
njalo – so, in this manner, like
 that
njalo-njalo – continuously, so
 on, forever, etcetera
nkabi – ox
nkambiso – custom, habit
nkatazo – trouble (n)
nkolo – belief
nkomo, nkomazi (pl
 zinkomo) – cow
nkos – sir
nkosana – chieftain, petty chief
nkosi – chief, master, sir
nkosikazi – lady, wife, chieftai-
 ness, madam
Nkos-pezulu – God
nkuku – (see **kuku**)
nkukukazi – hen
Nkulunkulu – God, Supreme
 Being
nkuni – wood, firewood, log
nkungu – mist
nkunzi – bull, male animal
nogwaja – rabbit
noko – if, when, or, although,
 however
nombola – number
nona – become rich, or fat
noneba – elbow
nonya – cruel
not – knot
noti – nut
notile – wealthy
notisi – notice (n)
Novemba – November
nqola, ngola – wagon
nguma, nquma – amputate;
 cut across; give a decision
nqumo – decision
nsepe – springbok
nsimbi – (see **ntsimbi**)
nsimi – cultivated land, field
nsune – mosquito
nsundu, ntsundu – brown;
 brown person
nswele – onion
ntaba – hill, mountain
ntambo – string, thong, riem
ntambo ga lo ges – electric wire
ntandane – orphan
ntando – pleasure
ntamo – neck
ntikintiki – jelly
ntlanzi – fish (n)
ntloko – head (n)
Ntlokohlaza – Spring
ntongomane – peanuts, ground
 nuts
ntsepú – soap
ntsha – young
ntsimbi – iron, steel; gong, bell
ntsuku – day
ntutu – smoke (n)
ntutwane – ant
ntwala – louse, lice
nuka (v) – smell, stink

nuka mnandi – fragrant
numzan – headman, chief (of kraal); sir
nundu – moth
nunu – reptile, gogga
nunusa – frighten (children with goggas)
nuzipepa – newspaper
nwaya – itch
nweba – stretch
nwele – hair
nyaka – year
nyama – meat, flesh
nyamazan,
nyamakazi – buck, venison, game
nyanga – moon; month
nyanga – herbalist, diviner
nyanga-ezayo – next month
nyango – door, doorway
nyanis – true, truth, surely, really, definitely, certainly
nyanis kupela – the whole truth
nyanis mpela – emphatically true
nyanisa – speak truth; affirm, take oath; behave correctly
nyaniso – truth
nyanzela – compel, squeeze
nyatela (v) – tread on; pedal
nyawo – foot (of body)
nyembezi – tears (weeping)
nyoka – snake, serpent
nyoka ga lo manzi – water snake

nyonga – hip
nyongo – gall, bile
nyoni – bird
nyosi – bee
nyosi-ndlu – beehive
nyuwan – new; novice, learner
nyuzipepa – newspaper
nxa! – expletive (expression of displeasure)
nxaniwe – thirsty
nzima – heavy, weighty; burdensome, difficult; pregnant; important

O

obaba – fathers (irregular pl)
odade – sisters (irregular pl)
odit – audit
ofisi, hofisi – office
Okitoba – October
olintsh – orange
oma – become dry, hard, ripe; thirst
omame – mothers irregular (pl)
omile – dry, dried, arid, dehydrated
omisa – make dry, dehydrate
omunye, omnye – another, anyone
osa – roast, fry, grill, toast
overolo, ovalolo – overalls
ona – do wrong or injustice to; harm, injure
oyil, oil – oil

P

pafuza – belch (v)
pagati – inside, into, between, among, middle, through
pagati mpela – centre
pahla – roof, framework
pai – pie
paka – cat
pakama (v) – erect, stand up, rise
pakamisa (v) – lift, raise, elevate; promote, propose
pakeme – important
paket, paketen – packet, parcel
pal – pole
palafin, parafin – paraffin
palitshi – porridge
pambili – in front, forward; before (place or time)
pan – pan
pandle, pandhle – outside, out
pandolo – pantry
panga – empty (truck)

- pansi, pantsi** – floor, below, down, low, underground
- papa** (v) – flap wings, be alert, active
- pape** – feather
- papisa** – rouse
- papu** – lung
- pas** (n) – pass, permit
- pasop** – (see **basopa**)
- pata** (v) – touch, handle, feel
- pauwa** – power
- pauwa steshi** – power station
- pawuda** – powder
- pawund** – pound (n)
- payinapu** – pineapple
- payip** – pipe
- payip ga bema** – tobacco pipe
- perfumula** – breathe
- pefumulo** – breath
- pega** (v) – cook, boil
- pek** – hoe (n)
- pela** – stop, cease, finish, come to an end
- pelepele** – pepper
- pelile** – ended, finished, exhausted
- pelisa** – settle, finish
- pemet** – permit (n)
- pende** – paint (n)
- penduka** – turn (back)
- pendula** (v) – answer, reply; turn over, reverse
- pensel** – pencil
- penta** – paint (v)
- pepa** – paper
- pepa mali** – banknote
- pesej** – passage
- pesheya** – across river; over seas; on the other side of
- peta** – hem (v)
- petrol** – petrol
- petsh** – patch
- pezulu** – above, over; top, roof; high
- pezulu ku** – on top (of)
- pika** – deny, contradict, dispute, contend
- pikap** – police van
- pikanin** – child, piccanin; young, small
- piki** – pick (axe)
- pikisa** – pick quarrel with
- piko** – wing
- pila** – be well, better; recover (health), recuperate; live (v)
- pilikos** – apricot
- pilisa** (v) – cure, heal
- pilile** – cured, well, healthy
- pilo** – pillow
- pimisa** – spit (v)
- pin** – pin
- pinda** – repeat, return
- pindisa** – retaliate
- pinifo** – pinafore
- pisí** – piece
- piston** – piston
- pitsh** – peach
- piyano** – piano
- pizi** – peas
- plag** – plug (n)
- plank** – splint, plank
- planti** – plant (n)
- plas** – farm (n)
- platform** – platform
- playas** – pliers
- plen** – plan
- pleyit** – plate
- po!** – phooey!, bah!
- pola** – cool off, subside; heal; be calm
- polile** – is cool
- polish** – polish (n)
- polisha** – polish (v)
- pompa** – pump (v)
- popi** – doll
- pontsh** – (rail) frog, points
- pontshi** – punch (tool)
- pontshiwe** – puncture
- popo** – papaya, pawpaw
- pos** – post
- posa** – throw, fling
- pos hofisi** – post office
- pose** – almost
- posisa** – miss, mistake, err, transgress
- posisaka** – mailbag
- posisile** – make mistake

posta – poster
poti – pot
poyisa – police
poyisa steshi – police station
poyizen – poison
propi (n) – cork, stopper
puga – break (vi)
pula – break, fracture (vt)
pulangwe – plank
pulazi – farm (n)
puli – pulley
puli wil – pulley wheel
puma – come or go out, emerge,
 come from; rise (sun)
pumalanga – sunrise
Pumalanga – East
puma lo gazi – bleed
pumisa – take out, extract;
 eject, force out
pumisa mate – spit (v)
pumula – rest
punga – odour, scent, smell
punga mubi – stink
pupa – dream (v)
pupo – dream (n)
putu – thick porridge
puza – drink, eat
puzi – pumpkin
puzisa – water (animals)

Q

qabula – kiss (v)
qakala – ankle
qala – begin, start
qalis – initiate, cause to start
qanda – egg
qedha – finish
qedisa – complete (v)
qediviki – illicit brew (fortified)
qina – be fixed, firm, tight,
 steadfast
qinile – secure
qinisa – fasten; make firm,
 tight
qinisile – true

qonda – understand, comprehend; be sure, intelligent
qondisa – help to understand
qoto – honest
quude – cock, rooster
quqa – trot

R

raba – rubber
rabish – rubbish
ragbi – rugby
Ranti – Rand (money)
rasa – row (v), make noise
rawund – circle
rayis – rice
rayitsayid – righ-hand side
redishi – radish
referi – referee
reke – rake
reyiza – razor
ringi – ring (n)
risiti – receipt
rivot – rivet
rog – frock, dress
rula – (foot) rule

S

saba – fear, be afraid; flee
sabela (v) – answer, reply
sabisa (v) – alarm, frighten
sadele – saddle (n)
sagha, sara – saw (tool)
saka – sack, bag
sakubona! – good day!
sakubula – wydah bird
sal – saddle (n)
sala – stay, remain (behind);
 survive; be left over
sala gahle! – goodbye! (remain
 in peace!)
salagaas – old cow
salani gahle! – goodbye
 everyone!
sambulela – umbrella

- samente** – cement
sampu – sump
sampula – sample
sanamabij – nail extractor, rail spike extractor
sando – hammer
sandla – hand, glove
sandla ga kudla – the right hand
sandla ga posa – right hand (literally “the throwing hand”)
sango – gate, gateway
santi – sand
sapot – brassiere
Satan – Satan, Devil
Sauwt – South
saveya – surveyor
sawuti – salt
sayid – side
sayin – sign (n)
sayinet – cyanide
sayiz – size
sebenza (v) – work, labour
sebenzisa – employ, operate, use
Sebutemba – September
sefdrat – wire netting
sefmehlo – gauze goggles
sefu – sieve
sela – thief
selesele – frog, toad
semwish – sandwich
sende – testicle
sendle – wild
sendulo – ancient
senga (v) – milk (cow, etc)
sent – cent
setsha – examine, investigate
Setswana – Setswana
seva – sift
seven – seven
seyil – canvas
seyil ga lo moyo – canvas tubing
shada – marry
shafu – shaft
shalof – shelf
shanyela – sweep (v)
shaya – hit, strike, beat, punish, knock; play (an instrument, or with ball)
- shaya holo** – drill a hole
shaya lo huta – hoot
shaya lo ntsimbi – knock off work
shaya mfingwan, shaya mpempe – blow whistle
shayela – drive (cart or car)
shayeli, draiva – driver
shayile – finish(ed) work; knocking-off time
shayissa – knock off work
shefa – shave (v)
shekel – shackle, connecting link
shela (v) – woo, court
shendela – shunt
shif – shift (n)
shifbas – shift boss
shimula – chimney
shiya – abandon, leave, desert, omit
shiyile – left behind
shizi – cheese
shobinga – urinate
shoko – shock
shona – set, sink, disappear, go down; become bankrupt
shonalanga – sunset
Shonalanga – West
shongololo – millipede, thousand-legs
shova – push
shu! – exclamation of burning and pain
shuga, shugela – sugar
shukuma – shake, move, stir
shukumisa – cause to shake, move, wag
shumi – ten
shushu – hot
sibamu – shotgun, rifle
sibedlele, spetele – hospital
sibindi – liver (n) courage, vigour
sibonda – pole
sibuko – mirror
Sibulu – Afrikaans
sibedlele – dressing station
sicoko, sikoko – hat
sidumbu – corpse

sifebe – prostitute, immoral person
sifo – death
sifuba – chest, breast, bosom
sifungu – affidavit, oath
sigaret, sikilidi – cigarette
sigubo – drum (instrument)
sigwagwa – machine gun
sihlalo – chair, seat, stool; saddle
sihlakala – wrist
sihlati – cheek (n)
sihogo – hell
sika – cut (off, out); kill
sikele – sickle
sikelela – bless
sikis – six
sikistin – sixteen
sikolo, skolo – school
sikombisa – seven
sikonyane – locust
sikota – veld
sikova – owl
sikrufu – screw (n)
sikrufudraiva – screwdriver
silondo (n) – sore, wound
silondo ga mlilo – burn (n)
silevu – beard, chin
silwane – beast, animal, creature
silwanekazane – insect, gogga
silwanyana – small animal, insect, vermin
silungulelo – indigestion, heartburn
silva – silver
sina – dance (v)
sinda – save, be saved (have narrow escape).
sindile – safe
sindisa – save, rescue; spare; heal
sindo – weight
sine; fo – four
sineka – grin (v)
Singis(i) – English
sinkwa – bread
sinqe – buttocks
sipepo – storm

sipere – spare part
sipu, sepu – soap
sishikan – electric drill
sirinji – syringe
sistel – sister
sisu – belly, stomach, abdomen
Siswati – Swazi language
sitampu, stampu – postage stamp
sitelo – fruit
sitende – heel
sitole – heifer
situpa – six; thumb
situta – stupid person, fool, idiot
sitwatwa – frost
sivalo – cork, cover, stopper; door
siza – help, aid, assist.; rescue, relieve; sympathize with
sizi – grief, sorrow
sizwa – aid (n)
skafu, skaf – food
skali (n) – scales, balance
skatula – shoe, sandal, boot
skati – time, turn
skati ka – o'clock; at that time
skebenga – bad man, criminal
skele – scissors
skelem – rascal
skiti – pound (for animals)
skodonga – lubricator
skokian – skokiaan
skoko – hard hat
skolo, skul – school
skomdere – volunteer
skonkwani – peg (surveyor's, etc)
skop – head; tobacco bud
skotshka – scotch cart
skruf – screw
skrumpat – tractor
skumba (n) – skin, hide, leather
skwam(u) – pocket
skwele, skwere – square
skweleti – debt, account
slipisi – railway sleeper
slutulelo – key
smesh – accident
smok, smoko – compressed air; fumes; gas

sobo, sopo – soup
soda, sawuti – epsom salts
sokis (ganyawo) – socks
sola – blame
soldati – soldier
Sombuluko – Monday
sompungana – sanitation
sondela (v) – approach, come near
sondo – (see *vil*)
songa (v) – fold, roll, wrap up; wind up
songo – bangle
sono – sin (n)
sonteni – church
sonto – Sunday; church; week
sori – sorry
sositshi – sausage
spambano – cross (n)
span – team
spanela – spanner
spatsholo – syphilis
spetele – hospital
speleti – pin
speketala – inspector
speshele – special pass
spikiri – nail (n)
sporo – track, rail
sprag – sprag
springi – spring (metal)
spuki – ghost
spukupuk – stupid, fool, simpleton, blockhead
spun – spoon
stalidi – street
staplayit – robot, traffic light
stebel – stable (n)
stelek – strong; very; thoroughly; hard
stes – stairs
steshi – station
stikitan – label
stim – steam, power, effort
stimela – railway train
stimela ga lo manzi – steamship
stin – brick
stishini, stishi – station
stofu – stove

stokis – spare diet; prison
stokwe – piecework; task
stolo – store; barn, shed
stolo ga lo tshwala – bottle store
stretsha – stretcher
streyit – straight
strangimani – circus
stuba – distance
stuba pezulu – height
stul – chair
stututu – motor cycle
stutwane – epilepsy
suka – go (off, away); start; get up
suka! – go away!
sukisa – chase away
sukuma – stand up, get up
sula (v) – dust, wipe (off), clean, polish
sulela – infect, contaminate
suliwe – clean (adj), cleaned
susa – move, shift; remove, take away; subtract
suza (v) – fart, break wind
swakama – become wet
swakeme – moist
swakamisa – moisten
swepu, swebu – whip (n)
switi, sviti – sweets
switsh – switch

T

tafa – plateau
taful – table
tafulduk – tablecloth
tagata – bewitch, enchant
tagati – magic, bewitched
taka – mix
tamata, tamatisi – tomato
tamba – become tame, soft, gentle, submissive; civilized
tembile – soft; tamed
tambissa – soften, relax; tame, break in
tambo – bone

tanda (v) – love, like; desire, wish
tanda kakulu – idolise
tandaza – pray, entreat
tandazo – prayer
tandisa – fascinate
tanga – pumpkin; thigh
tata – take (from)
tausend – thousand
tawul – towel
taya – tyre
tebekolosis – tuberculosis
teksi – taxi
tekula – joke (v)
tela – pour (into)
tela manzi – pour water
telefomo – telephone (n)
temba – expect, hope; trust, rely on
tembisa – promise
ten – ten
tena – castrate, dock, prune
tenda – turn round, revolve
tendela – partridge, francolin
tendela – wobble (v)
tenga – buy, purchase
tengisa – sell; offer for sale
tenis – tennis
tenk – tank
tep, tepu – tap, cock
tetisa – reprove, scold
teta – try (legally); scold, nag
teti – thirty
tetin – thirteen
tibi, TB – tuberculosis
ti, tiye, tiyi – tea
tikameza – tease (v)
tikit – ticket
tikoloshe – tikolosh (river imp)
timba – timber
timbila – Chopi xylophone
timula – sneeze
tin, tini – tin, drum
tina – we, us
tinta – touch (v)
tipoti – teapot
tisha – teacher
tispun – teaspoon
Tixo – God

tiya (v) – trap, snare, ambush
tiyo – bait (n)
toba (v) – bend, bow, stoop
tobisa – cause to bend; subdue
tokozisa – cheer up, delight
tokozile – cheerful
tokozo – happiness
tola – obtain, find, pick up, take up
toliki – interpreter
tom – bridle (n)
tomba – rust (v)
tomba – sprout; reach age of puberty
tombile – rusty, rusted
tombo – malt
tonel – tunnel (n)
tonsa – drip (v)
tonsi – drop (n)
tosti – toast (n)
totsh – torch
tri – three
troko – truck
tshala (v) – plant, bury (funeral)
tshani – grass
tshapu – chopper, axe
tshek – cheque
tshela – tell, inform instruct
tsheleka – lend; borrow
tshetsha – hasten
tshetsha! – be quick!
tsheyini – chain (n)
tshiki – cheeky, insolent
tshintsha – transfer, substitute, change (money)
tshintshi (n) – change (money)
tshipisa – cheapen, reduce in price
tshipile – cheap, bargain
thisia – hot, heat; burn, blast
thisia mbitshan – lukewarm
tthisastik – fuse lighter
tshizel – chisel
tshokoleti – chocolate
tshona – submerge
tshontsha – rob, steal
tshotshaloza mshin – diamond drill
tshub – tube

tshwala – beer
tsotsi – tsotsi, hooligan,
 scoundrel
tu – two
tuba – chance (n)
tuka – swear (at), insult, curse
tukutela – become angry
tukutele – angry
tula! – be quiet! shut up! hush!
tulake! – quiet, please!
tulabo! – be quiet! (emphatic)
tuli – dust (n)
tulile – quiet, still, calm
tulisa – pacify
tuma – send
tumatsch – too much
tumba – abscess, boil
tumbu – tube; hosepipe; intestine
tumbu ga lo manzi – water
 pipe, hose
tumbu ga lo smok – air hose
tuna – grave (n)
tunga – sew; splice; mend
tunzi – soul, spirit
tunda – urinate
tutumela – tremble; be nervous,
 alarmed, anxious
tutumelisa – make nervous
twala – carry
twelof – twelve
twenti – twenty
tyali – shawl

U

ubambo – rib
ubani? – who? whom?
ubudi – evil
ufunani? – (see **funani?**)
ufuta – stench
uhambo – journey (n)
uju (ga lo-nyosi) – honey
ukotuka – shock
ukuba – that (conjunction); so
 that, because
ukude – until
ukufa, gufa – death

ukula – weeds
ukuti – that (conjunction)
ukwazi – knowledge
ukuwelwa ndlebe – earache
ukuwelwa ntloko – headache
ukuzala – birth
ukuzalwa – is born
ulaza – cream
umalusi – shepherd, herdsman
umangi – liar
umbusi – governor
umfan – (see **mfan**)
umfula – river
umfundisi – teacher, missionary, clergyman
umfokazi – stranger
umfazi – (see **mfazi**)
umhlanziso – emetic
umona – envy, jealousy
umsindisi – saviour, rescuer
umusa – favour
umzingeli – hunter
unowoha – (see **mfene**)
upi – where
upi? – where?
upiskati? ipiskati? – when? at
 what time?
upondo – horn, tusk, ivory;
 tower, steeple
Utixo – (see **Tixo**)
uto – any, anything, something

V

vala (v) – close, shut, cover
valela mali – deposit money
valo (n) – cork, cover
valv – valve
vejetebel – vegetable
vek, wik – week
vela – come from, come forth,
 appear
velapi? – where do you come
 from?
velisa – bring forth, produce;
 propose, suggest

velv – valve
vika – parry, ward off, avoid (a blow)
vikela – protect, defend; intercede or plead for
vil – wheel (n)
vimba – prevent; close (shut) up; store away
vimbela – avert, prevent, shield, obstruct
vimbela-ngozi – safety
vitamini – vitamin
volontiya – volunteer
volovolo – revolver
vova – wring, squeeze
vuka (vi) – wake up, get up, spring up, rise
vukela shift – early shift
vukile – awake
vukuzi – mole
vula – open (door, etc), unlock
vuma – agree, consent; acknowledge
vuma (n) – vim, pep, vigour
vuma ga mnandi – harmonise
vumela – allow, permit, authorise
vumelo (n) – consent
vumisa – convince, persuade
vuna – thresh, reap, gather harvest (grain)
vunguza – blow (wind)
vusa (vt) – wake, awaken, arouse, raise, alarm, warn
vuta (v) – burn, blaze, flare; be intense or ardent
vutela – blow (the fire)
vutisa – make hot
vutiwe – ripe; (well) cooked; mature

vutwa – ripen
vuza (v) – leak, ooze out

W

waia – wire
waia ga lo gesi – live wire
wayales, wailisi – wireless, radio
wan – one
washa (v) – wash
washgel – washgirl
watsh – watch, clock
wayin – wine
webo – you (emphatic)
wegon – wagon
wej – wedge
wekshap – workshop(s)
wela – ford river; cross sea; cross stream of traffic
wena – you (singular)
wenazonke – you (plural)
wetu – pal, friend, colleague, contemporary; fellow tribesman, kinsman
wik – week
wil, vil – wheel
wila – fall
wile, iwile – fallen
wilibero – wheelbarrow
windmil – windmill
winj, winji – winch
wisa – upset (v)
wol – wall
wola – gather
wowa – fall; crash
wuwu – owl

X

x! – exclamation of disgust or contempt

Xosa – Xhosa

xosha – drive away (cattle, etc); dismiss

xuba – mix together

Y

ya – yes

yabolisa – please

yas – overcoat

yazi – (see **azi**)

yebo – yes, certainly

yedwa – alone (solitary)

ye he! – ha ha!

yeka – leave off; leave alone; let go; cease; yield

yeka lo kudla – fast (v)

yekelela – loosen, slacken

yena – that (person or thing)

yena, ena – he, she, it, who, whom

yenababili – both of them

yena lo! – that's it!; it is (right)

yenazonke – they, them

yidla – (see **idla**)

yilwa – (see **ilwa**)

yimba – (see **imba**)

yima – stand, stop ,halt

yimisa (v) – stop, park

yini – (see **ini**)

yini? – (see **ini?**)

yinindaba? – why? what's the matter?

yinto – (see **into**)

yintoni? – what is it? what thing is this?

yisti – yeast

yizwa – (see **izwa**)

yo! – exclamation of surprise

yunifom – uniform

Z

zacile – thin, malnourished

zala – give birth, breed; increase

zalela – lay (eggs)

zamban – potato

zamla, zamula – yawn (and stretch)

zembe – axe

zenze – flea

zimbila, zimbira – xylophone

zindla – think over, meditate

zingela – hunt (v)

zinkomo – cattle

zinwele – hair

zinyo – tooth

zinyo ga ndlovu – ivory

zipo – fingernail, toenail; claw

zipondo ga lo baisikil – handle-bars

zo – will, shall (futurity)

zonda – hate (v)

zondo – hatred

zonke – all, every, entire

zonke-ndawo – everywhere

zonke langa, zonke ntsuku – every day

zonkeskati – every time, always

zulu (lozulu) – sky, heaven; atmosphere; weather; lightning

zuma (v) – surprise, ambush

zumayo – sudden

zuza – acquire, earn, gain

zwane – toe

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